

THE CELEBRITY CHILDREN WHO GO WRONG How fame can bring misfortune EATURES, PAGE 18

WHO'LL BE THE NEW DICK WHITTINGTON? The battle for London's mayor hots up

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Victims: Natalie Brooks, 12, Paige Anne Herring, 12, Stephanie Johnson, 12, Brittany Varner II, and teacher Shannon Wright, 32

Slaughtered by 'boy who had a lot of killing to do'

in lonesboro, Arkansas

THE OLDER of the two boys who were due to be charged later yesterday with capital murder in Tuesday's horrifying attack on fellow pupils at an Arkansas school told friends only ooe day earlier that he was incensed at being jilted by a girlfriend and that: "He had a lot of killing to do."

While police would say nothing about a motive in the shooting, in en, 11, and Mitchell Johnson, 13, were took him seriously. which four pupils and one teacher: to be charged later yesterday at the died, anger over a romance gone county determion centre where they wrong as well as a new affiliation with have been in custody since Tuesday. ited on the Westside Middle School, be tried only as inveniles. This would who broke up with him, yoo know, ing. "It makes me angry, not so much

university and farming town in north-

The girdfriend was reported to be birthdays. 12-year-old Candace Porter. Canhit in the lanch-hour fusillade who survived and who yesterday were still being treated for their wounds. She was said to be in a stable condition and out of danger last night.

The two accused, identified in. newspaper reports as Andrew Gold-

guilty and served the strictest sentence they will walk free on their 18th

dace was named as one of 10 others both boys had had good records of obedience in the 250-strong school, it seemed that Johnson had boasted recently of joining a gang. He had reportedly been involved in a knife fight on Monday and had spoken to several friends that day about his murderous intentions. No one, however,

> .: -"He told us that tomorrow, you will find out if you live or die," one pupil, Melinda Hanson, told reporters. An-

on the outskirts of Jonesboro, a small imply that even if they were found he's going to come to school tomor- at the individual children that have row and kill them. I thought he was just kidding around."

Mr Davis attempted yesterday to tive, however. "I don't think logical explanations or reason will fit this type of situation," he suggested.

Anticipating public outrage at the likely leniency of an eventual sentencing, Mr Davis added that he . off their bullets? would "explore all options" to try the boys in a manner to keep them behind bars beyond 18. That would imply intervention in the case by the illegal for children. federal courts.

apec vis planation for the minutes of terror vis- that under Arkansas law the pair could told me yesterday that all the people expressed his dismay over the shoot-

done it as much as angry at a world in which such a thing could happen."

Myriad questions remained unan-While teachers suggested that damp down speculation over the mo-swered last night. Who, for instance, was the owner of a white van found parked near the crime scene on Tuesday with a stash of weapons inside? And how did the boys get hold of some nine weapons they used to fire

> In Arkansas there is no law forbidding minors from owning and using rifles. Only handgun ownership is

The four children killed were Arkansas Governor Mike Huck- ideotified as Natalie Brooks, 12, Johnson, 12, and Britiany Varner, 11. Sitting ducks, page I3

IRA splits put peace on the brink

By David McKittrick reland Correspondent

THE security forces believe a dangerous new threat to peace in Northern Ireland has developed from a recentlyemerged and as yet unnamed breakaway republican group with access to IRA technology.

The group is believed to be responsible for a number of atoight's mortar attack on Forkhill Royal Ulster Constabulary station in south Armagh. The authorities regard it as a major danger to security io general and to the talks process in particular.

The Forkhill attack and other operations are designed to disrupt the talks, which are now io their final phase. The chairman of the talks, former US senator George Mitchell, yesterday set a deadline for a deal by 9 April, suggesting that the parties go into continuous session for the previous three nights.

The authorities fear that the period up until then will be punctuated by further attacks emanating both from republicans, scluding the oew grouping and lovalists such as the rene-

gade Loyalist Volunteer Force. The new republican grouping is thought to be headed by dissident IRA members who resigned from the mainstream organisation last November in opposition to the peace process strategy identified with the Sino Fein presideot, Gerry Adams, and his supporters.

Their political line is believed to be that the Adams leadership has strayed too far from traditional "Brits out" republicanism. Io this they are regarded as supporters of a political grouping styled the "32 County Sovereignty Committee." Much of this group's support is thought to come from disaffected former

Sinn Fein supporters. Another breakaway repubtacks, most recently Tuesday lican group, the Cootinuity Army Couocil, has been carrying out bombing attacks in Northern Ireland towns for several years now, but the new grouping, though only a few mooths old, appears to have access to more sophisticated technology than the CAC.

In addition to the Forkhill incideot it is held responsible for a similar mortar attack on a security installation in Armagh city some days ago. These are the only mortar attacks carried out in Northern Ireland by a group other than the IRA, and as such they demonstrate a fast-increasing destructive capability.

The RUC Chief Constable, Ronnie Flanagan, yesterday claims that receot attacks had involved the IRA. He said: These attacks have largely been by republican terrorist organisations. They are not the

work of the Provisional IRA." He added, however: "The IRA remains an organisation which is intact and which presents a threat to this society ... IRA's future, page 21

THE NEW ASTRA & VAUXHALL

Farewell to welfare as Blair orders Britain to work

By Anthony Bevins

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CONCORDE

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ID PRINCES

AFTER 50 years' faithful service, Tooy Blair's Labour govcrument will today wave good-bye to the Welfare State Beveridge, offering instead d senefits system that leaves a high-grade safety net only for those who absolutely need it.

The long-awaited welfare Green Paper, A New Welfare Contract, will make clear beyond be more help for those in the £5bn New Deal welfare-to- of hard-and-fast policies on doubt that those who can work greatest need. Of that, he said, work programme, offering each benefit, but MPs are exhave a "doty" to do so; those who can provide for their own security should "help themneither will be looked after. . . claimants have sat back and to target the welfare system Parliament, and wheo other lie Accounts Committee for the report says.

offering a low-grade safety net work. That is the contract. for the destitute. There would

"no one need fear". selves"-while those who can do passive welfare, in which and the next and final stage is tumn's oew session of icism from the Commons Pub-

Trailing the Green Paper, Mr waited for their giro cheques. on those who really need it. decisions can be expected. Blair said during Commons In 1948, when the welfare

question time: "What is im- state came into existence, twoportant is that we have a wel- thirds of those claiming National fare state in which there is Assistance, the precursor to to-There was oo question, the and the Government is deterspokesman explained later, of get them off welfare and into pendency and insecurity.

But the new model welfare training, the Budget will make

Today's consultative docu-Commons statement from Frank Field, a politician whose of other reviews are expected to work for those who can, secu- day's Jobseeker's Allowance, career, has been dedicated to accompany the comprehensive rity for those that can't, and op-were retired. Now, over two-this fundamental change - in portunity for those denied it." thirds are below retirement age, which people will be offered responsibilities to go with their Prime Minister's official mined to do all in its power to rights, to break the cycle of de-

The Green Paper will not They have been given the contain a detailed shopping list them opportunities of work or pected to be given an outline battle-plan, showing which leg- curity ministers - Tory and system will overturn decades of work pay more than benefits; islation is coming up in next au- Labour - faced scorching crit-

A review of the uprating of ment will be accompanied by a the state pension is due to be delivered in June, and a oumber departmental spending review timed for delivery in July. That could include answers oo the Child Support Agency, benefits for the loog-term sick and

disabled, and Housing Beoefit. The seemingly intractable problems of housing benefit were exposed yet again yesterday, when successive social se-

not tackling massive levels of Housing Benefit fraud. The oew Government is about to grasp that oettle.

The Commons report said that fraudsters almost oever face prosecution, despite the of them are milking up to £2bn from the state each year. Of those who are detected, fewer than one per ceot are taken to court. Just under half of all local authorities brought eveo

The waste of public money on Housing Beoefit fraud is massive and inexcusable, and it has gone on for far too long."



Mary Allen: criticised by National Heritage committee

Mary Allen is forced to quit in new melodrama at Royal Opera House

maxes an extraordinary year in aged by a House of Commons select committee, seen its chairman and board resign and some the chairman of EMI. of its most senior staff sacked.

Mrs Allen was strongly criticised by the National Heritage the manner of her move from al Opera House, to take over as . chief executive of the house. The post was not advertised and the Arts Council not consulted. Gerald Kaufman, the com-

Sir Colin Southgate who is also

But yesterday at a heated board meeting Mrs Allen was plans for the organisatioo". told by Sir Colin and the board select committee last year over that they wanted an artistic di- has looked nostable following rector not an administrator to Secretary-General of the Arts, run the House. Insiders say Council, which funds the Roy- she argued strongly that it needed "a strong arts administrator to cope with the financial difficulties" at the ROH.

night as chief executive of the called for her resignation. But of the Royal Opera Company's Royal Opera House, writes though the ROH chairman, director, Nicholas Payne, to David Lister. Her departure di- Lord Chadlington, resigned in the English National Opera, and the wake of the report, Mrs Allen felt the House needed artistic which the ROH has been sav-refused to go and said she would credibility. Mrs Allen was said serve under the new chairman last night to be extremely upset. An ROH statement said only that there was "a growing difference of views over the future

> In truth, Mrs Allen's position Richard Eyre. the select committee's report, criticism from the Arts Council (her chairman there Lord Gowne said he had "bonded too closely with her in explaining why he did not block her move But the board rejected her when he appeared before the arguments. They were said to be select committee) and the fail-

MARY ALLEN resigned last mittee chairman, repeatedly shaken by the recent defection ure of Chris Smith, Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, to back her publicly. She has always maintained that the criticism was unfair, sayiog "If there were mistakes, they were honest mistakes".

> currectly the subject of an inquiry of opera provision in London being headed by Sir

Funding shake-up, page 3





INSIDE GUIDE: WEATHER, P2 • CROSSWORDS, P32 AND EYE P10 • TODAY'S TELEVISION, EYE P12 • FULL CONTENTS, P2

TOMORROW IN FRIDAY'S EYE

32 pages of film and music

arvis Cocker: nothing to laugh about

■ John Lyttle: why Kate Winslet is too big for Titanic

Portrait of Andrea Quinn, new boss at the Royal Ballet

Catherine



News Foreign Features Design Leader & letters Comment **Obituaries** Business Crosswords 32 & The Eye 10



Success of Aids drugs brings its own risks

By Jeremy Laurance Health Editor

of the epidemic.

THE transformation of Aids from a death sentence to a treatable condition is raising a new spectre among doctors: that it will encourage carelessness about sex and a resurgence

The extraordinary success of the Aids drugs introduced in the last four years in cutting the death rate from the disease has radically changed patients' lives. But as the threat of fullblown Aids and death recede for those infected with the HIV virus, they are increasingly demanding to know whether they can return to unprotected

sex and start families. The progressively more intense anti-retroviral drugs with which they are being treated dramatically reduce the amount of virus present in the blood. Testimony to their success is contained in a study in the New England Journal of Medicine, which shows that among more than 1,200 patients with the severest immunosuppression caused by HIV infection, the incideoce of Aids decreased by 73 per cent and deaths by 75 per cent between 1994 and mid-1997.

fell 29 per cent between 1995 wills we now need classes oo how to find employment."

the amount of virus in the day a vaccine are likely to make blood, they also reduce it in a real difference," they say.

genital secretions. Does this mean that "unsafe" sex can be safe again? Doctors are unsure. In an editorial, Bernard Hirschel and Patrick Francioli of the 12th World Aids Conference, Geneva, say: "Patients seek our advice about their infectiousness but we are unable at present to provide clear

They warn that Aids campaigns must highlight the limits of current treatments to prevent carelessness and a return to old sexual habits.

The new treatments also raise a new dilemma: when to start the drugs. They are powerful agents with side-effects that can be shrugged off in lifeor-death situations but which acquire greater importance as survival prospects improve. Although their effectiveness is proved beyond doubt in patients with severely affected immune systems, in others the balance of advantage is less

The side-effects, which include loss of fat from the body and an excess in the blood, "are likely to matter to young asymptomatic [without symptoms patients who care about their body image and who may worry about the risk of heart In New York, Aids deaths disease in the years ahead." Drs Hirschel and Francioli

and 1996 and by 44 per cent be- say that the treatment which is tween 1996 and 1997. Similar now saving lives in the West is falls have been recorded in an "inaccessible dream" for Canada, France, Germany and most Aids sufferers who live in Switzerland. One HIV activist the developing world because of quoted in the journal said: "In- its cost: \$12,000 (nearly £7,500) stead of classes on how to write a year. "Nothing is likely to bridge the gap between the rich and poor countries. Only But if treatments reduce prevention and perhaps some



-friendly: The cast of Friends in London yesterday to promote a series for Channel 4. (Back row, left to right) Matt Le Blanc and David Schwimmer; (front) Courtney Cox, Mathew Perry and Jennifer Aniston Photograph: Peter Macdiannid

Railtrack cash plan falls flat

By Randeep Ramesh Transport Correspondent

Plans for a 10-year, £17bn spending spree on the nation's railways were attacked by the industry regulator yesterday after intervection by the watchdog saw his office launch an immediate investigation into the "commitments" to passengers.

Railtrack, which owns Britain's stations and signalling, published its spending programme, which it described as railways". But John Swift QC. and a further £640m is part of . a Railmack director, said: the regulator, said the pro- a deal with Richard Branson's "Some train companies require"

gramme contained "very few Virgin group to upgrade the to grow by 10 per cent a year." firm commitments to deliver significant improvements" for pas-

sengers and freight customers. Mr Swift said he would find out if train operators thought Railtrack's management statement met their needs. He received strong backing from the Deputy Prime Minister, John chairman, said: "There are real Prescott, who welcomed Mr congestion problems at certain Swift's action. Industry obtaines of the day and these have servers say the plans contain lit- to be overcome. The problem tle new money for the network. is in part the need for ever-in-Despite the headline figure, creasing numbers of passengers a blueprint to regenerate the £16bn was promised last year on the network." Paul Prescott,

World weather most recent available figure al room local

west coast line.

The ride for passengers is: identified 15 congestion hotspots on the network. Despite this, the situation will not improve until 2002 at the earliest. Sir Robert Horton, Railtrack times of the day and these have

secretary, said it was launching its own initiative which would see drivers "moderating their .speed," over track they consid-

"This is due to a 5-per-cent increase in train miles," said Mr Aslef, the train-drivers' union, has long criticised Railtrack for its safety record and vesterday Lew Adams, general

However this increase in "train miles" has adversely afalso set to get worse. Railtrack fected punctuality. Figures show an increasing number of poor-

ingham, had pressure placed on ly performing train services. his oeck at some stage before he was pronounced dead at the privately run jail. The jurors heard from a

Home Office pathologist that the prisoner, who stopped breathing while being removed from a cell, suffered bruising to his back and neck. He died of asphyxia consistent with his breathing becoming impaired while being restrained, they were told. ered "dangerous"...

Officers

pending

Crime Correspondent

suspended

jail inquiry

SEVEN prison officers were

suspended at a private jail last

night after a inquest jury ruled that an inmate awaiting trial had

been unlawfully killed after he was placed in a necklock dur-

The family of Alton Man-

ning, 33, who died of asphyxia

at Blakenhurst prison near

Redditch, Worcestershire, in

December 1995, immediately

called for the prison officers in-

The Prison Service an-

nounced that seven officers

had been suspended at Blaken-

hurst jail, which is run by the

private company UK Detention

Services Ltd, while investiga-

tions are carried out. The

Crown Prosecutioo Service is

believed to be studying the

findings to decide whether crim-

inal charges should be brought.

called for an end to use of bead-

locks as a restraint technique,

which is being reviewed, and for

the Home Secretary to set up

a public inquiry. The Prison Ser-

vice was accused of failing to

heed past lessons of past - this

is the third unlawful killing ver-

dict returned for an inmate in

The unanimous verdict by

the inquest jury at Kiddermin-

ster town hall, after 15 days of

evidence and testimony from 30

witnesses, was greeted by cheers

The bearing heard how Mr

Manning of Sparkbrook, Birm-

from the public gallery.

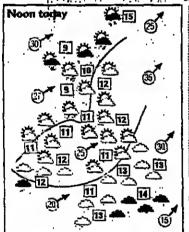
jail since 1979.

Campaigners yesterday

volved to be prosecuted.

ing a violent struggle.

WEATHER



England and Wales will start overcast and quite windy with race in many places. The south and east will stay wat well into the afternoon, but northern and western developing Meanwhile, any remaining overright rain o Scotland and Northern Ireland will soon clear to leave a blustery day with a few surmy spells and occasional showers. Most of the showers will be in western Scotland and the west of Northern Ireland.

Outlook for the next few days

Pain will move north across Scotland on Friday but this will become continued to the far north and west for the Afternoon. Elsawhere will turn out warm with sunshine. Saturday will see can return to most parts for the morning but the attennoon with be generally dry with some surmy spells. On Sunday there may be the odd chower in the north but most parts will be fine although rain will be moving north from southern England

British Isles weather mostracem avaitable ilgure at poor local bine C,cloudy; Cf.cloar; F,fair; Fg,fog; Hz,haze; M,mist; R,fain; Anglescy Belfast Birmingham N 9 48 Jersey Blackpeni C 1050 Liverpeel Barraemouth R & 46 London Caritsia Daver

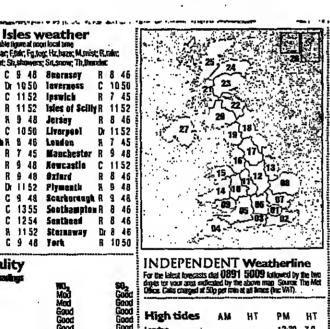
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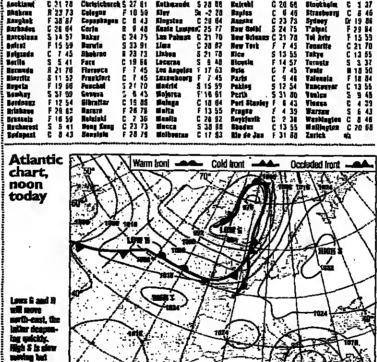
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Out and about with AA Roadwatch cat 0336 401777 to be lated local and rational traffic news. Source The Automobile Association Calls charged at SQ; per min at all times (see YAT)



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Avoirmouth
Hull (Albert Dock)
Greenock
Dun Laeghaire Sun rises: 05 50 Sun sets: 18.23 Moon rises: 05 10 Moon sets: 18 18



MICHAEL HANLON WEATHER WISE

IF IT were not for a wonderful invention patented 96 years ago, much of the south-east of the United States, including first customer was a Brooklyn Florida, Alabama, Georgia and the Carolinas, would have remained wilderness, alligator swamp and farmland, instead of heing home to some of the most rapidly growing cities in the Union, such as Miami and Atlanta.

All this is down to one man, Willis Haviland Carrier. Like the invention of the elevator, which made the skyscraper possible, Carrier's keeping cool, and by the Fifties brainwave - air conditioning - allowed the urbanisation of the Deep South, a place with a truly nasty summer climate - combining very high temperatures and humidity.

"an apparatus for treating in British offices, schools, cars air", was filed in 1902. At- and homes in July and August.

tempts at air-conditioning had been made before, but as these involved huge quantities of ice that had to be replaced. they were far from practical. Carrier's machines worked on the same principle as the refrigerator, compressing gases with a pump, and allowing them to expand, taking heat from their surroundings.

Initially, only industry was interested in his idea. Carrier's printing company, which was having problems in the summer with its colour dyes. But sooo the value of aircoo was realised, and it was reported that "patrons exclaimed with delight when they got through the doorway" of a newly airconditioned Texan theatre. Department stores and businesses found they could increase sales and productivity by aircon was common in homes

and cars across the country. Thanks to the abiquity in the US of Carrier's invention, few Americans would tolerate the sticky and unpleasant con-Carrier's first patent, for ditions still commonly found

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3/NEWS

An era ends as racecourse bookies go on line

By Greg Wood

THE BRITISH racecourse betting ring, a throwback to a different age which has barely changed since Vic- er words, places where it is easy for their since the end is also in sight for tratorian times, is to undergo the most dramatic and far-reaching reforms in

its history over the next 18 months. Grizzled, ageing bookies calling the odds from the top of upturned woodeo crates could begin to disappear as early as this October, under recommendations published yesterday by a bookie's "joint", the structure from cember 1999, the ticket will be committee which has speot many

customers to reach them. They will also be required to post a bond before being allowed to trade, and make an an-

The most dramatic change, however, will be in the appearance of the betting ring. For decades, the standard

ring. Other changes will include a re- and junk metal. The new joint will be time and name, the ticket oumber, the eral are well into their 80s - that the laxation of the strict rules on where a standard construction of coloured, name of the horse backed, the stake, time has finally come to retire. bookies can stand, and allow their moulded plastic, with a power supply odds, type of bet and the potential re-"pitches" to be positioned around the to allow the use of both a tape recorder turn. A computerised system for hanpaddock and hospitality areas - in oth- and, almost mevitably, a computer, ditional bookmakers' tickets.

At present, on-course bookmakers bookmaker's name and a unique onmber, but nothing more. From 31 Dewhich he operates, has been little more required to list not just the bookie's months studying the arcane ways of the than a hastily erected heap of boxes name and address, but also the race the oldest gentlemen of the ring - sev-

dling bets will thus be almost essential The average age of bookmakers also seems certain to fall. Until now, o system of "seniority" has governed call a punter's bet to a clerk who shares the allocation of racecourse pitches, dio tape recording of all transactions. their pitch, and issue a colourful, pre- with bookies often spending 20 years printed betting ticket which gives the or more on o waiting list before they are allowed to work at the biggest tracks. Soon though, they will be able to auction their pitches to the highest bidder, which may persuade many of

Any radical change will have its casualties, however. The bookies' clerks, whose skill and accuracy in filling out huge ledgers of bets and liabilities, sometimes at the rate of a ticket every four seconds, is one of the wonders of the track, may be redundant when the computers arrive.

Tic-tac, the racecourse semaphore system, should still be essential, however, and one other familiar feature of the joint will surely remain. No bookie, after all, would feel complete with-



Stumbling dinosaur toddler finds a path into posterity

By Nicholas Schoon Environment Correspondent

ABOUT 113 million years ago, a dinosaur toddler stumbled into a shallow, mucky lagoon and drowned. In doing so it gained an extraordinary immortality, for today it is described as the most well-preserved dinosaur fossil ever found.

Muscles, intestines, liver and even traces of the unfortunate infant's windpipe can be seen in the exquisitelydetailed fossil, although strangely - none of the skin

The reptile was probably less than 2ft long from nose to tail; the exact length will never be known since the end of its tail is missing, as are the lower parts of its back legs. It only had its baby teeth, and the Italian palaeontologists who describe science journal Nature say it was "little more than a hatchling".

The dinosaur fossil was discovered in limestone in the Benevento province of southern Italy, which is well known for its superbly preserved fish fossils.

The rock is the remains of sediments laid down in shallow lagoons with low oxygen levels during the early Cretaceous.

Cristiano Dal Sasso, from the Natural History Museum in Milan, and Marco Signore. of Bristol University, claim that the fossil "shows details of soft anatomy oever seen previously in any dinosaur".

A carnivore, it stood on two legs, had front limbs with three sharp claws, and is distantly related to the fearsome Tyrannosaurus rex. It is the first dinosaur fossil to be found in Italy, as well as being a species new to

Funds cap on arts companies

By David Lister Arts News Editor

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THE country's biggest arts companies, including the Royal Opera House, Royal Shakespeare Company and National Theatre, are likely to be put oo fixed-term fuoding contracts.

and the land of both An end to the 50-year-old system by which the same companies, by and large, can expect to continue to receive public The Proof moocy year after year was promised yesterday by the incoming Arts Council chairman Gerry Robinsoo.

Mr Robinson, who also chairs Granado PLC, was brought in by Culture Secretary Chris Smith to bring a more all policy. Part of his philosophy business-like approach to the he said, was "to fund fewer or-Arts Council and arts funding. ganisations better". His first initiative is sure to take the arts world by surprise.

journalists yesterday that he major clients may suffer variawould be bringing in funding tions in their grants, they have cootracts ranging from one been secure in the knowledge year to five years for all the Arts that they are seen in perpetuand their ity as publicly funded flagships. time was up they would have to This could oow change. prove again that they were worth public mooey and the council would decide if they were actually good enough. He said this would encompass all . . . It skild the well-known names includwith it ing the Royal Opera House and mound the Royal Shakespeare in and the Company.

we can say in five years time we will have another look at whether they should have the money. You need a mechanism which enables you to look at it quite freely and make a

judgement. There is a real problem under the present system that funding just carries on. I think the London Arts Board (which receotive cut funding to Greenwich Theatre] has been very brave in saying that certain organisations are not up to the

Mr Robinson also said that the Arts Council had been "ineffective" in recent years and did not seem to have any over-

In the past the council has occasionally ceased funding He said at a lunch with arts small companies. But while the

A spokesman for the Royal Shakespeare Company said: "We will have to wait and see what happens. We have to plan several years ahead anyway so we would oot be against fixedterm contracts as such. But we would certainly be extremely shocked if there was any Mr Robinson said: "We have thought of us ceasing to be pubto have a period of time in which . licly funded."



Subsidised: A performance of Das Rheingold at the Royal Opera House in London

Photograph: Laurie Lewis | it in this week's issue of the

Irish autocrat haunted by smell of skeletons in the cupboard

IN THE NEWS

CHARLES HAUGHEY

AUTOCRATIC to the end, former Taoiseach Charles Haughey was yesterday bluntly defending his claim that whatever he and his family accumulated during his years in power is nobody's business but his own, writes Alan Murdoch in Dublin.

He was in the High Court in Dublin flanked by wife Moureen, daughter Eimear, and sons Conor and Sean, to stop in its tracks a Dail-backed tribunal investigating his finances. By extension that inquiry would also delve into the background to o range of government decisions during a cabinet career spanning over 30 years.

Though propped up by a crutch after a riding accident in which he broke a hip. Mr Haughey was in full command of his battling faculties. The man once famous for his terrifying baleful stare denounced the latest investigation into his affair by Judge Michael Moriarty's tribunal.

The aftermath of Haughey's rule has been an avalanche of investigations into a smell from a dusty cupboard marked "Skeletons, property of The Boss." He kept a straight face some months ago when telling a judicial tribunal "I just want to say that I did not have a very lavish lifestyle. My work was my lifestyle." For the record, this is the owner of Abbeville, a sumptuonsly furnished north Dublin Georgian mansion on a 280-acre estate, a yacht and a private island off Kerry.

Other features of a diligent life of pubhe representation include a family-owned helicopter firm run by soo Ciaran, loans to which greatly interested tribunal investigations, and a stud farm. Haughey semor also likes fine wines, opuleot hotels and debonair female company. The probem is that such indulgence exceeded his ability to pay for it as a salaried politician. Like the third secret of Fatima, most Dubliners expected to go to their graves without hearing the real source of his wealth. But for the disclosure during a famly row by Haughey fan and former stores magnate Ben Dunne that he had bailed out the cash-strapped politician to the time of £1.3m between 1987 and 1992, they Fould be none the wiser. Haughey at first denied theo confirmed the payment.

Suspicion grew that there might be other Ben Dunnes. Questions were raised in the Dail about who they might be and what



Haughey: Spent £300,000 a year in the Eighties, several times his salary

they may have got in return. There was much interest in disclosures that Dublin financier Dermot Desmond had loaned cash to refurbish Haughey's yacht and paid in advance for executive helicopter service.

In January Desmond confirmed he provided Haughey with further funds from 1994, two years after he left office. Desmond's stock-brokerage grew rapidly in the late Eighties, aided by a stream of contracts from Haughey's government.

After an initial appraisal of evidence, a full tribunal last summer established that cash gifts to Haughey had been channelled through offshore accounts held by Irish multi-millionaires known as the Ansbacher deposits, at times holding up to £38m. Haughey's personal expenditure in recent ethics legislation retrospectively.

the Eighties was put at £300,000 a year, several times his salary.

Yesterday Haughey seized on that first tribunal's conclusioo that it had made no finding of "political impropriety" against him. This being so, he argued, the setting up of the second tribunal under Judge Moriarty was "constitutionally doubtful, and grossly unfair."

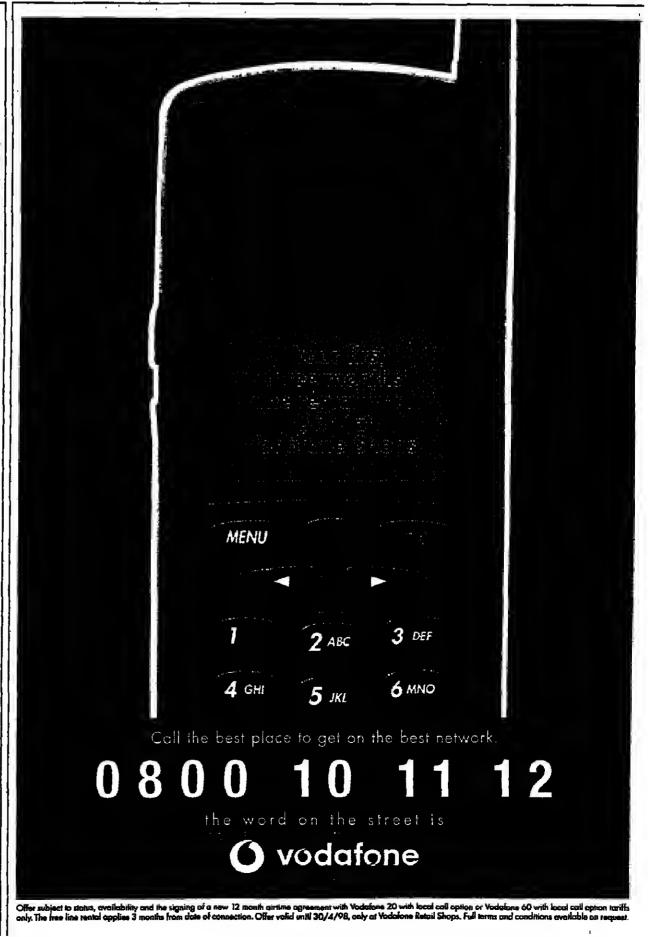
Haughey signalled he was not going to give an inch. He was, he promised, ready to defend every decision he had made as Taoiseach or as a minister right back to 1961. His lawyers claimed the latest tribunal is no more than "a trawl" through his finances, and argue it may be uncoostitutional, since it effectively seeks to use

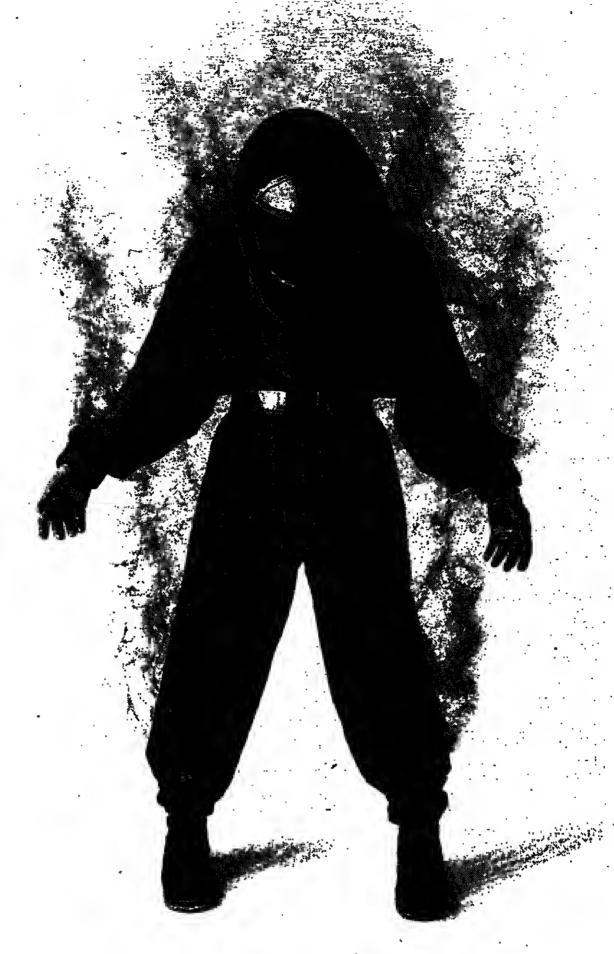
FOUR-TIMES Taoiseach Charles Haughey is fighting a reported back-tax and penalties bill from Ireland's Revenue Commissioners of £1.7m.

WHEN BOWING out in 1992 from his impressive offices (known ss the "Chas Mahal") he disted down his Shakespeare and observed to the Dail "I have done the state some service and they know't. No more of that."

IN 1970 he was acquitted in the Arms Trial armid accusations that funds he controlled as finance minister for the relief of Catholics in Northern Ireland had found its way into the hands of the embryonic Provisional IRA.

ASKED BY a tribunal last year if his earlier false statement accounts were "pretty economic," he replied :"I hate that phrase. It has been flogged to death."





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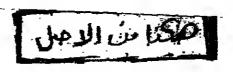
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Poachers' slip

E)

A MOST interesting copy of a letter on Guardian-Observer stationary, signed by the newspapers' editors Alan Rusbridger and Will Hutton, has landed on Pandora's desk. The text of the letter is old noxious smff: a crude sales pitch designed to lure Independent readers to defect sent out in early February. What makes this letter interesting is that it is addressed to "Mrs N Major" at 10 Downing Street, London, SW1. Pandora feels that the boastful claims made by Mssrs. Rusbridger and Hutton in the letter are hideously undercut by the fact that they - or their staff - appear not to have ooticed that Mrs. Norma Major moved out of 10 Downing Street in the middle of last year. (In the meantime, Pandora has takeo steps to ensure that Mrs Major, a loyal Independent reader, continues to receive her copy every day at her Huntingdon home.)

Commercial logic

AUTHORS and literary agents on both sides of the Atlantic are incensed by the Bertelsmann purchase of Random House. The deal will reduce the major players in United Kingdom book publishing to just three: Random/Transworld (Bertelsmann-owned), HarperCollins and Viking-Penguin. Random/Transworld will control more than 26 per cent of the UK fiction market and literary agents fear the deadening effect that this will have on formerly lucrative blockbuster novel auctions. At the same time, authors fear that this is yet another example of the "corporatisation" of publishing that has driven so many talented editors out of the profession and left the marketeers in control.

However, yesterday Lonis Baum, editor of the Bookseller magazine, put a refreshingly optimistic view of the deal to Pandora. "Yes, this makes Random/Transworld a formidable player, but I don't think it reduces competition in respect of publishers selling books into the market," he said. He believes that the deal will be good for booksellers



and book readers. "This is going to change attitudes. Bertelsmann is the third largest media group in the world. Their willingness to invest in books will make the City more keen to invest in publishing. Everyone will see that there's money to be made. In the end, I think. more books are going to be sold in this country as a

Teutonic tactics

IN THE meantime, where are the Eurosceptics oow that we oeed them? Where is all the rhetorical thunder and lightning about the fact that our precious British literary culture is rapidly falling buider Teutonic cootrol? Before the lates Random House capitulation there was a great British family publishing house called Macmillan that was quietly conquered by the German company Holtzbrinck.

Sparklers and pigeons

CALLING all anti-hunting militants. It's time to pack your black balactavas and head off to South Africa. The SA government has just announced its intention to shoot all the pigeons in its north-western region. The reason: diamond thieres are using the birds to transport their sparkling booty out of the heavily policed zone. According to Manda Msomi, chairman of the SA parliament's public enterprises committee, "The law now is to shoot all pigeons on sight." If you are not the militant type, you might think of expressing your disapproval at this outrage by sending all your diamoods to Pandora's Save the African Pigeon Fund. Then again, you'd be mad if you

Sexgate ripples spread

THE CLINTON Sexgate saga is so popular with readers in America that the usually solemn United States hroadsheets are losing their composure in the heat of the battle for good stories. Indeed, hacks from the New York Times have been accusing the Washington Post of being biased towards Paula Jones and her lawyers, while the Post's hacks have come out accusing the Times of being partial to Clintoo's lawyers. Receotly, the Times published an article that described a Post article as "mostly wrong". Good stuff, the kind of journalism British readers eojoy every day. But the stuffy self-satisfied New York Times lost its nerve and only put the story in its final edition, excluding it from the Times' Internet site.

Pandora

DAILY POEM

The Dry-Cleaner's Son

By Neil Powell

The dry-cleaner's son is ruining my life. Two years ago, he'd help out Saturdays, Slight boyish chores rewarded with ice-cream.

Last summer he'd grown lanky, self-aware: Out in the street, washing his father's van, They staged a grand balletic water-fight.

Now, tailer of the two, he calls me "mate", Will deputise for dad, or join him in A loose bravado, male confederacy.

His shirts - today, gigantic hippie flowers -Are as loud as his crotch-lioe; and his former selves Lost postcards from the summers left behind.

Sur poems today and tomorrow come from Neil Powell's Selected Poems (Carcanet, £8.95). Neil Powell, who lives in Aldeburgh, Suffoik, has published critical works such as Carpenters of Light and The Language of Jazz as well as four collections for Carcanet since 1977.

Clubbers dance to bouncers' drug-trade tune



By Jason Bennetto Crime Correspondent

ORGANISED criminals are employing bouocers to sell men and dealers operating in clubs and pubs, a Home Office study reported yesterday.

rect links between bouncers, criminals and drug dealing, and found corrupt security companies operating a "control the doors, cootrol the floors" strategy. The findings of the study, which examined the use of bouncers in Merseyside and Northumbria, will add pressure on the Home Office to introduce legislation to control the unregulated and booming door-

supervisor industry. retary, has been criticised for dragging his feet on the issue. Despite repeated promises

to regulate the industry, the Home Office has merely carried out a second consultation exercise and insisted that action will follow.

The report, Clubs, Drugs and Doormen, carried out by the Home Office's Police Research Group, provides compelling evidence of the widespread illegal

bosses. It said that bouncers an opportunity to make huge were involved in drug dealing in profits. a oumber of ways.

"Staff may simply turn a blind eye to dealing activity, drugs and using violence to receive payment in return for collect "taxes" from other door- permitting dealing on the premises, or act as dealers halfwere going to take cannabis themselves."

Some bouncers held a stock The research uncovered di- of drugs which they distributed LSD. to dealers working in the clubs once stocks were sold. Womeo dealers were hecomiog increasingly popular as they are less likely to be searched. A study of Liverpool found

that well-organised criminals ran a security firm that used violence and bribery to take over the bouncers at clubs and pubs who then controlled the drug supply. In Newcastle criminals were

Jack Straw, the Home Sec- not so closely involved and were more likely to "tax" bouncers and approved drug dealers who operated in the

A council door-registratioo scheme in Newcastle, in which bouncers have to be approved and trained, was praised, but researchers said it was oot a panacea and did not prevent all drug dealing.

The expanding dance maractivities of bouncers and their houses, provides criminals with

A survey last year found that 90 per ceot of 517 people in Loodoo questiooed at dance events said they planoed to take drugs that evening. About

amphetamines, and 16 per cent Among the recommeodations in yesterday's report was for the police to use more undercover teams io clubs, to find out more about bouncer's drugdealing techniques and to monitor the meo behind security

and ecstasy, about 40 per ceot

companies providing doormen. A scheme at the Ministry of Sound club in Londoo, where half the bouncers are hired from the West Midlands and a code of conduct has been drawn up, was also praised as helping drive out criminals.

Local authorities were recommended to set up more doormen-registration schemes and enforce health and safety regulations.

New powers for local authorities to close down clubs immediately where drugs were found to be sold are to come into power in May.

Clubs, Drugs and Doormen ket, in pubs, clubs, and ware- is available free from the Home Office, Fax 0171 273 4001

The Liverpool and Newcastle experience

ORGANISED criminals were found to have infiltrated the pub and club scene in Merseyside to sell drugs. One security company operated a "control the doors, control the floors" approach to the distribution of drugs. It moved into Liverpool by buying up existing bouncers with cash bribes or using violence and intimidation

against those who refused to co-operate. The firm's bouncers either sold the drugs to club- and pub-goers directly or took a cut from the doormen.

During a period between January 1995 to December 1996 police inquiries identified 49 bouncers working in Merseyside who were known to them. Nine had convictions for drug offences, one director had a conviction for drug production. A head doorman at one club was facing a charge of conspiracy to supply. Twenty-

eight of the men had convictions for violence including two murders and three attempted murders. The police arrested and jailed three of the men in charge of the company, but within a year a new firm, containing several members of the old one, was operating in Merseyside. Manchester, Warrington, and Southport.

The connection between drugs and bouncers in Newcastle is not as acute as in Liverpool, yet police believe about one in 10 of the estimated 1,200 doormen are involved in crime.

Drug dealers and criminals rely on "intimidation and extreme violence" to force doormen to pay them a "tax" and to allow approved dealers into the clubs and pubs. At least 38 doormen are known by the police. Twenty-five have been convicted of violence,

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Think different

Lawrence family felt scorned by police

A SENIOR police officer investigating the murder of black teenager Stephen Lawrence so shocked." was handed a list of suspects by his parents, which he screwed up into a ball before their eyes. the judicial inquiry into his death was told yesterday.

Doreen Lawrence, 45. Stephen's mother, made an impassioned attack on police in a statement to the inquiry. They had treated the family with disdain, she said, and had kept them in the dark about the progress of the investigation into Stephen's death.

Two liaison officers assigned to the Lawrences seemed more interested in gathering information about her son than in providing support, she said in a Stephen's friends and whether he had helonged to a gang.

"They never actually told us what their role was." said Mrs Lawrence, "We were never given any informatinn. As the days went by, we were never never reached trial. Mrs made aware of anything that was happening."

The inquiry, chaired by Sir William Macpherson of Cluny, is examining the issues arising from the death of Stephen, 18, who was stabbed by a white gang at a hus stop in Eltham, south-east London, in 1993.

Mrs Lawrence told the inquiry panel that the names of murder suspects were passed to pavement in a pool of blood, she the family by visitors and relatives in the days after Stephen died. Two weeks later, when arrests had still not been made, she gave a list of the names tn she said. a senior officer on the investigation, Detective Chief Super- ues today.

intendent William Ilsley, "He rolled the piece of paper up into a ball in his hand," she said. "I don't think I said anything, I was

Mrs Lawrence alleged that police officers were patronising and unsupportive from the outset. When the family first heard from a neighbour that Stephen had heen attacked, they telephoned 999 for more information and were tald: "It's news

At the hospital, she said, officers did not speak to them at all. "The police did nnt come and say to us that your son has died, and this is how he died, this is what happened."

The liaison officers appeared mainly interested in penple who enngregated in the Lawrences' home after statement read to the inquiry in Stephen's death, including south London. The officers re-members of anti-racism groups, peatedly asked them about she said, adding: "The people in our house were all black. The penple who killed my son were

> Five white local ynuths were eventually charged with murdering Stephen, but the case Lawrence said that the family found out about the first arrests from the media. Constable Linda Bethel, one

nf the first officers on the scene after Stephen was attacked, told the inquiry yesterday that she did not find out that he had been stabbed until three hours Although he was lying on the

did not fetch her first-aid kit from the patrol car. "I did not appreciate that he was in a had state, that he was going to die,

The public inquiry contin-



Stepping out: The model Chantelle Stephenson wearing an outfit (dress, £355; shoes, £220) from Moschino's couture collection at the opening of the Milan fashion house's new shop in Conduit Street in the West End of London vesterday

Blair vows to fight crime and racism

By Anthony Bevins Political Editor

THE crime and racial discrimmation that make the lives of so many members of the ethnic minorities intolerable would be tackled by the Labour government, Tony Blair said last night.

Speaking at a London dinner for about 350 successful Asian husiness people, the Prime Minister said: "I want to see your success extended to others. And that can be helped by a government willing to tack-. le those things that make life intolerable for too many people:

crimination. I am proud that because of their background is are tackling crime, especially ety that works. The modern ity, but a waste of real talent." Britain I want to create is worth anthing if it is built on intoler- ter's questions in the Comance towards those of a differmons yesterday, Mr Blair told

Britain a better place to live. why we will continue to promote racism in all its forms." opportunities for all across all parts of government and soci-

in particular crime and dis- criminates against people key areas of society ... And we anti-racism laws, going beyond Britain is a multicultural soci- not just a society lacking moral-

At the start of Prime Minisent colour, religion or beliefs. MPs that he would be attend-"Cultural diversity enriches ing the "Asian 200" dinner, and Britain. The contribution of there was a roar of approval the Asian community makes when he said he was going "both to celebrate the enterprise You are central to Britain's of the Asian community and strength in the future. That is reiterate our total opposition to

Last night, in his Café Royal speech, he said: "We will tack-

among young people. Crime levels are far too high. Especially in the inner-city areas where many Asian husinesses are located and where many Asians live. And be in no doubt

that we will not tolerate racial

Following The Independent's call for a political stand to be taken against racism, Alex Salmond, leader of the Scottish National Party, said yesterday that once the Scottish Parliament had been set up, his parety. Because any society that dis- le under-representation across ty would be introducing strong services until at least 2003.

existing British legislation. "Scotland's reputation as a place of tolerance and ethnic diversity is precious to the SNP and to all who live here," he said.

. The Commission for Racial . Equality also announced that it had lifted the threat of issuing the Ministry of Defence with a formal Non-Discrimination Notice, but under a partnership agreement signed by Sir Charles Guthrie, Chief of the Defence Staff, the CRE is to remain closely involved in developing racial equality practices in the

Man quizzed over murder

DETECTIVES investigating the murder of 14-year-old Kate Bushell yesterday arrested a 20-year-old man. He is being questioned at an Exeter police station about the murder of the schoolgirl, who was killed while walking a neighbour's pet dog near her home on the nutskirts nf the city last November.

Kate's body was discover ered by her father, Jeremy, just 300 yards from her home. Her throat had been slashed. Murder hunt police ordered DNA tests on all men living in a halfmile radius of the scene.

Alert over pills

THOUSANDS of packets of paracetamol tablets are being recalled after it was discovered that some were contaminated with aspirin M&A Pharmachem Limited is withdrawing from sale packs of 25 500mg Mandanol tablets after concerus that the rogue pills could be a danger to children or those people allergic to aspirin

Drink-drive limit

A CROSS-PARTY committee nf peers last night called for the drink-drive limit to be reduced to about one pint of beer.

While backing the European Uninn proposed limit for the UK nf 50mgs of alcohol per 100mls of blood, the committee refused to support an EU directive to harmonise the drink-drive laws across

Doncaster arrest

DETECTIVES investigating allegations of corruption at Doncaster yesterday arrested a Labour councillur. Michael Collins was arrested on suspicion of false accounting in a long-running inquiry into expenses, foreign trips and relationships between councillors and developers.

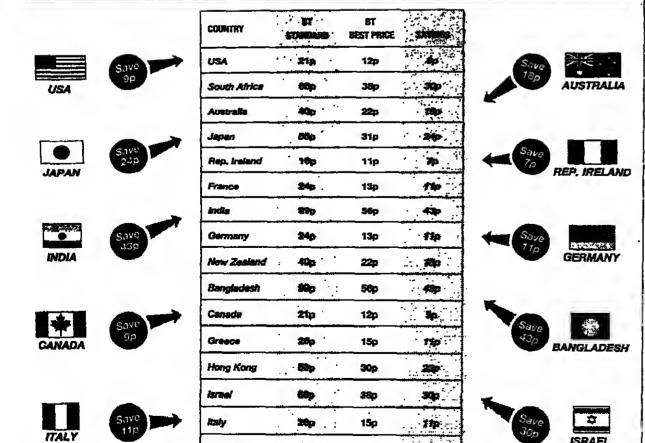
Border demand

THE Home Secretary, Jack Straw, is to demand that the Belgian government take action to halt the flow of bogus asylum seekers arriving in Britain after being ordered out of Europe's "open bor

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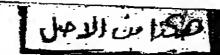
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Drink-drive line

Film-world levy to put Britain in the frame

By David Lister Arts News Editor

THE Government is asking the film industry to pay a voluntary year for training, distribution and script development.

The Film Policy Review Group, chaired by the films minister, Tom Clarke, and Stewart Till, chairman of Polygram Film Entertainment, has asked the industry to pay half a per cent of the film and video companies' film revenues. It has also recnmmended that the Government open a UK film office in Los Angeles to entice Hollywood producers to make films

The group was set up by the culture minister, Chris Smith, with the objective of finding ways of improving the market wants to see film education in schools and the Arts Council wood-style movies." switching Inttery money away from production of new British films and intn development porting infrastructure for and distribution.

Mr Smith said yesterday it was planned to have the voluntary levy in place by next year British film should be amendand the film office in Los Angeles up and running by this September. Mr Clarke added: "This report is the biggest review of British film for 30 years. It is not a quick fix.

"Rather, a logical series of interlocking proposals which will in time create a more robust. They make up a huge and and competitive industry to benefit of British audiences and the British economy."

film critic Alexander Walker. ever easier and more entic-He said there was too much em- ing."

phasis placed on big money, as successful pictures like Mrs Brown and The Full Monty "could not have been smaller".

He also said: "We are allevy in order to raise £15m a ready known in Hollywood for what we make. We don't need rebranding or promoting out of our class or beyond our creative

> "Hollywood isn't really a creative industry, it is an imitative one. What's imitated is the last big success and this has made for a formulaic predictability, compared with the freshness of our own one off approach."

Film publicist Sara Keene who was on one of the review group sub-committees, defended the notion of film education in schools: "If you educated people about film, then they demand better films share of British films. It also and will not be satisfied with formulaic and lightweight Holly-

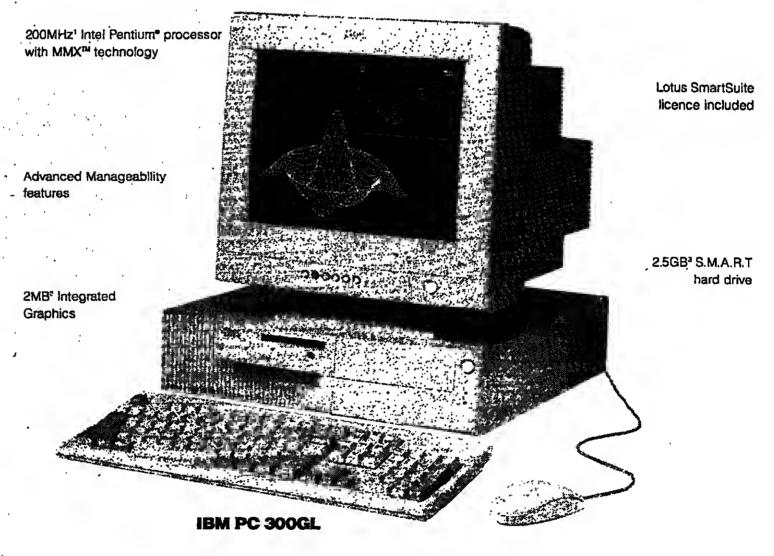
Further proposals in the report aim to strengthen the supdeveloping the film industry. The report recommends that the statutory definition of a ed to make it more practical and user-friendly. Additionally, a new definition of a "culturally British film" should be introduced to assist monitoring and marketing. Mr Smith said: "The Government places special emphasis on the creative industries. growing part of our economy, bigger even than manufacturing and with limitless potential as But the initiative was con- new forms of communication demned as "misbegotteu" by the make access to creative input,



Flying the flag: Ralph Flennes in a scene from Onegin, a forthcoming British film backed by American money which is being shot in Britain and in Russia

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Wildlife cost PAYING in water wars

Environment Correspondent

BIG cuts in water bills could leave wildlife and wetlands high and dry and polluted, conservationists argued yesterday.

The Environment Agency, the Government's leading green watchdog, said it was possible to have five years of unchanged wills while still safeguarding rivers, lakes and marshes.

It joined pressure groups attacking the industry's econnmic regulator, Ian Byatt, head of Ofwat, for saying he wants an across-the-board cut in bills in 2000. This, they claim, pre-empts the debate about what it will cost to protect the

Mr Byatt and other combatants in England and Wales' water war were on the platform at a London conference nrganised by the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds. At issue is the limits on household water bills which will be imposed on the water companies

CELLUX STICKY TAPE ROLL in setting them, but the Secretary of State for the Environ- away nothing about what it ment, Deputy Prime Minister John Prescott, decides the balance of power between the eu- Labour will find it tempting to vironment, customers and endorse a cut in bills.

The price limits will not be

settled until next November. Until then, there is a three-way fight, with distrust and hostility between the parties, all of which could be sensed yesterday's. In one corner is Mr Byatt, determined to push through price cuts. The average bill, £243 this year, has doubled since privatisation in 1989; even once inflation is accounted for, the increase works out at nearly 40

In the second corner are the Environment Agency and English Nature, the Government's wildlife protection arm. They fear that too little money will be devoted in improvements to smaller sewage works and boreholes needed to protect rivers. lakes and bogs.

The third group is the water companies, anxious to protect profits and shareholder dividends. On hand yesterday was Mr Prescott's deputy, the environment minister Michael Meacher. His speech covered all for the years from 2000 to 2005. the conflicts, noted the decision Mr. Byatt plays the lead role for the Government on water bills was difficult, and gave would be. But, after railing at water "fat cats" in opposition,

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Solutions for a small planet

Targets for GCSEs

SECONDARY schools should set targets for 16-year-olds' the school standards minister, said, suggesting that local augets with their schools, writes Judith Judd.

Ministers have not yet decided whether to set national targets for GCSEs similar to those for 11-year-olds. Local education authorities already have to agree targets in English and aths at the end of primary thool. They must also agree argets with individual schools.

ment Association conference made it clear that local edu-GCSE results, Stephen Byers, cation authorities must not "nanny" schools. As he issued a new code of practice thorities might agree the tar- outlining authorities' powers to intervene in schools, he warned that the power should be used sensibly. Authorities should go into a school "only if there is reasonable cause for concern. We believe schools must be responsible for their own performance," he said.

The new code tries to strike a balance between the powers nf local authorities on the But Mr Byers, who was noe hand and heads and govspeaking at a Local Governermors on the other.

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Artist 'carried remains on bike'

AN ARTIST "trying to understand death" rode a motorcycle through London carrying stolen bits of dead bodies wrapped in bin-liners inside a rucksack, a court was told yesterday.

Anthony-Noël Kelly, 42, a former butcher, who made silver and gold-coloured sculptures from the parts, told police the largest and heaviest was the head and torso of an old man.

Fortunately, preserving fluid they had floated in for at least 18 years at the Royal College of Surgeons' headquarters had kept them "limp", and he had no trouble folding the arms across the chest for easier transportation, Southwark Crown

Court in south London was told. Mr Kelly, of Clapham, south London, and Niel Lindsay, 25, a former trainee lab technician from Stoke Newington, north London, both deny stealing parts of dead bodies from the college between June 1991 and November 1994. Mr Kelly also denies dishonestly handling them.

The case continues.



Canadian walkabout: Prince William shaking hands with admirers gathered to greet him in Vancouver yesterday. Prince Charles and his two Photograph: Jeff Vinnick/Reuters sons are on the family's first official visit to North America since Diana, Princess of Wales died last summer

Publisher fights with 'Mail' over Diana book

THE Daily Mail and a London publishing honse are locked in a disagreement over a biogra-phy of Diana, Princess of Wales by Richard Kay, the journalist closest to the Princess.

The newspaper said it has signed a deal with Boxtree to turn a series of articles into a book. But the publisher is playing down the newspaper's involvement and has heavily promoted the book - Diana, The Untold Story - at the London Book Fair, emphasising the Kay authorship.

The newspaper and publisher will meet next week to discuss how the book should be marketed for the launch on 10

Among matters to be clarified will be the billing of Geoffrey Levy who was co-author of the series of newspaper articles. Mr Levy was not mentioned in a glossy brochure at the fair or in the publisher's catalogue.

Mr Kay is well-known as the princess's confidante, but has always been extremely sensitive about the friendship and his close relations with her family. He attended her funeral as a private guest and refused to write about it.

A book by him "unveiling the truth about her childhood, her ill-fated marriage to Charles, the men who came into her life..." in the words of the publisher's brochure, would be a publishing coup. The catalogue says:

"[Richard Kay] feels that his role remains to put the record straight about the life of the princess and describes a very different woman from the bitter bulimic portrayed in Andrew Morton's biography... From happens to be an extremely his special standpoint as Diana's good book, it's beautifully writmouthpiece, Kay tells the untold ten and a great story."

as The Independent has

A spokesman for the news-

charities, when they had begun the Diana, The Untold Story, series. "If you rang up the memorial fund and asked them how they felt, they would enlogise about Richard Kay, Geoffrey Levy and the Daily Mail," the spokesman said.

The newspaper refused to say whether any of the proceeds of the book would go to the two reporters. But the spokesman said Richard Kay had received the information contained in the series as a Daily Mail reporter and that information belonged to the newspaper.

The book will bind together the 12-part series with an introduction. Adrian Sington who signed the deal for B



The brochure promoting the book at the London fair

part of the Macmillan group, said there would be a new 2,500-word introduction, but the Daily Mail insisted yesterday that the book would contain nothing which had not been published in the newspaper.

Mr Sington said he expected it to be a success: "We expect to sell an awful lot of copies. It

No mention was made of the A spokesman for the Daily Daily Mail or Mr Levy in the in-Mail said last night that it was formation prepared for the the newspaper's own venture London Book Fair because that and that it had received the was a rights fair for foreign buy-£50,000 advance, not Mr Kay, ers. Mr Sington said: "I haven't decided yet whether I'm going to call it a Daily Mail book."

Trustees of Diana's memopaper said they had made a rial fund last night refused per-"staggeringly large cheque" to mission for an American toy the princess's memorial fund, firm, Hasbro, to make a Sindy set up to raise money for her doll looking like the princess.

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Aquatic encounter: Valerie Taylor, a leading diver and underwater photographer, in a tank with sharks yesterday at the London Aquarium to promote the London International Dive Show which will be held at Olympia, west London, on Saturday and Sunday

MoD concealed radiation leak at A-bomb base

Health Editor

VITAL information about the release of radioactivity after an accident at Greenham Common airbase was withheld by the Ministry of Defence from the government-appointed committee set up to investigate it, a report says today.

Members of the Committee on Medical Aspects of Radiation in the Environment (Comare) were "quite angry and disturbed" when they found that details of the 1958 accident, in which a B-47 bomber was destroyed, had been concealed, Professor Bryn Bridges, the chairman, said yesterday.

It is the third time the committee has been lied to since it was established a decade ago to advise the Government on the effects of radiation in the environment, Professor Bridges said: "I hope the climate of disclosure is changing. The public would expect it to change."

The latest case of nnndisclosure meant a 1989 investigation by the committee into the high incidence of childhood cancer in west Berkshire had to be reopened. That in-

vestigation considered whether ment at Aldermaston studied in the rate could have been caused by radioactivity released from the three nuclear establishments in the area, at Aldermaston, Burghfield and Harwell. It concluded that the radioactivity from these sources was too low but did not know shout the possibility of a release

from the airbase. In 1996 the Department of Health asked the committee to return to the issue after the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament said, on the basis of a secret MnD report, that a nuclear weapon had been damaged in the Greenham Common accideot, releasing a burst of radiation.

In today's report the committee says there is oothing to suggest, on the basis of the ioformation supplied to it, that a nuclear weapon was involved in the accident, in which an aircraft preparing for an emergency landing dumped fuel in the wrong part of the airbase, destroying the B-47 on the ground. Levels of radioactivity recorded by the MoD in 1961 were no higher than known releases from the Atomic for them (following the CND

the committee's earlier report and were too low to account for the excess childhood cancers, Professor Bridges said the

excess of cancers was not unique to west Berkshire. Other counties, including Oxfordshire and Buckioghamshire. also have high rates which are unexplained. Although the report confirms the carlier finding, that radioactivity in the area cannot explain the cancer cluster, the committee remains concerned that the public will lose trust in its work unless organisations can be depended on to co-operate. Professor Bridges, of Sussex University, said: "The MoD is a major player in the nuclear field and its responsibility is no less than other sectors of the nuclear industry to make relevant information

available." The MoD had been "caught in an impasse" because the refevant documents were classified secret. "They couldn't teli us they existed, and because we didn't know they existed, we couldn't ask for them. As \$000 as we knew of them and asked Weapons Research Establish- report, we got them."

Young men turn to unhealthy pub life

By Glenda Cooper Social Affairs Correspondent

....

EPENDEN

FAIRYTALE BREAK

HOUSIE CASTLE

MORE young men are turning to unhealthy pub-based lifestyles, drinking and smoking too much and seeing games of snooker or pool as their favourite exercise.

According to the General Household Survey, compiled by the Office for National Statistics (ONS), ooe in eight young meo aged 18 to 24 drinks oo average more than 50 units of Department of Health recommends no more than 21 units.

The proportion of young men drinking more than the recommended limit reached its highest level in 1996, with more the limit.

Young men were also more likely than any other age group to smoke. In 1996 43 per cent smnked compared to 37 per cent in 1988. Teenagers were most likely to smoke high-tar cigarettes with 79 per cent of men and 66 per cent of women doing so. However, they did smoke fewer eigarettes, with 16to 19-year-old men smokers averaging 82 cigarettes per ities 99 per cent of adults had week and women 68, compared to 111 and 96 for men and

women smokers overall. in determining how likely you are two-thirds of adults saying they to smoke. The ONS found that had read a book in the weeks men in households headed by before interview compared with someone in miskilled manual work were four times as likely to similar circumstances, were General Household Survey. three times as likely to smoke.

where professional womeo were three times as likely to drink more than the recommended levels than those living in unskilled households.

Young women also showed than four in ten men exceeding a marked tendency to drink more than the suggested levels with a quarter of 18- to 24-yearolds drinking more than 14 units a week compared to one in seven in 1984.

Men drink on average 16 units per week compared to 6.3 for women. Exercise for men commonly consisted of a game of snooker or pool, whereas and keep-fit. For leisure activ- £39.50.

watched television in the four weeks before being interviewed. There was an increase in the Social class plays a large part number of people reading with

54 per cent in 1977. We are also becoming a nasmoke as men from a profes- tion more obsessed about its sional household. Women, in well-being, according to the

One in 16 people sa However, the reverse is true had an acute illness which realcohol a week when the when it comes to drinking stricted their activity compared with 8 per cent in 1972.

"These are self-reported so it is a question of perception of illness," said Paul Hunter, a researcher for the GHS. "But greater expectation of a healthy lifestyle could be the cause."

. Nearly one in five of adults said they were anxious or depressed, with a greater proportion of women than men reporting this. Anxiety and depression was highest amonest women of 75 and over.

Living in Britain. Results from the 1996 General Household Survey is available from women preferred swimming the Stationery Office price



Cannabis marchers to test law with dope sandwiches

By Graham Ball

THE former drugs smuggler Howard Marks is to test a loophole in cannabis laws this weekend by offering himself for arrest for eating sandwiches made up of cultivated marijuana seeds.

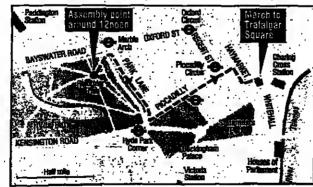
In yesterday's Independent it was reported that police chiefs are urging the Home Office to bring in new laws banning the trade in cannahis seed and dope-growing equipment.

At present it is completely legal to buy, sell and possess cannahis hemp seeds but it is illegal to grow them.

The Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) is lobbying the Home Secretary to close what they consider to be a serious legal loophole.

Mr Marks will make his move on Saturday, following the Independent on Sunday's decriminalise cannahis march and rally in Trafalgar Square. The plan to expose the inconsistency of the present law is the brainchild of a Glastonburybased drug campaigner who has changed his came from Robert Christopher to Free Rob Cannabis.

Mr Cannabis has been in contact with the Home Office Action Against Drugs Unit and



deemed to be cultivation and therefore against the law.

"After Saturday's march Howard Marks is to join me at Charing Cross Police Station arrest for the crime of distribution and possession of 'sprouted hempseed sandwiches, said Mr Cannabis whose Free Medical Marijuana Foundatioo distributes cannabis by post to drug to alleviate medical

law despite the fact that sproutsources known to man. The 964-2692.

ascertained that in their view the food is also entirely drug free, sprouting of cannabis seeds is containing no THC [the psychoactive ingredient of cannabis] whatsoever", said Mr Cannabis.

Howard Marks, who served eight years in an American where we will offer ourselves for prison for cannabis trading in the 1980s and is oow a bestselling author, deplores the ACPO proposals. "It seems that the police are

determined to pull in the wrong direction, despite the obvious those who self-administer the recent changes in public attitudes. Banning the sale of seed will not make any difference to "According to the Home Of- the overall quantity consumed fice we will be in breach of the it will just drive the trade further underground", he said. untritiously balanced food Saturday's march call 0181-

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Tories press Patten to join race for Mayor of London

Chief Political Correspondent

SENIOR Conservatives last night were making a renewed appeal to Chris Patten, former governor of Hong Kong, to throw his hat in the ring for the first elected Mayor of London after declaring it a "real job with real power".

He refused to stand until he was convinced it was a real job. but a friend said: "We are hoping he will now decide to stand. There are real powers for the new mayor," Mr Patten is seen and so far the most enthusiastic campaigner for the post.

Frank Dobson, the Health

strategy game.

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Labour MP, who announced the result beyond doubt. vesterday he would be standing.

Mr Dnbson has made it clear he wants in continue with his Cabinet role, but that could change next year if he was invited in stand. He is viewed by strongest candidate to beat Mr fore the next election. Livingstone, a member of the party's national executive with

Glenda Jackson, transport favour of having an elected Blair's preferred choice to run would be campaigning with first-past-the-post vote and 11 Fowler, Tory environment

Dixons

former GLC leader, and mocrats for a "yes" vote, putting to reflect the position of the par-portance of the boroughs was

The Deputy Prime Minister, John Prescott, gave the clearest signal so far that the elections for mayor and assembly will be hrought forward to autumn, 1999 to put both in place in time the Labour leadership as the for the millemium, and well be-

Mr Prescott said the new mayor will be "a powerful figa following from his days as the ure" with an electorate of over charismatic boss of the GLC. 5 million voters.

The Mayor will be elected by minister for London, will also supplementary vote, allowing by some Tories as the best hope declare her hand after the May voters to mark their first and to stop Lord Archer, the author. 7 referendum, which is expect- second choices of candidate, ed to be overwhelmingly in while the 25-member assembly will be elected by the additionmayor. The Tories did a U-turn, al-member system, with 14 di-Secretary, was emerging as Tony and confirmed yesterday they rectly elected by the

ties. It is likely Labour will ensure places for women and ethnic minorities by this system.

Mr Prescott will put the Mayor and the directly elected assembly in charge of a £3.3bn budget with powers over police, fire, and transport services, buses, roads, river services and a say in the future of London Underground. There will be a new 23-strong Metropolitan Police Authority, with 11 drawn from the assembly. The Home Secretary will appoint 11 members

The most potentially controversial powers are over the boroughs, and Sir Norman

and one will be drawn from the

being reduced. The Mayor will The white paper unveiled by planning permission for devel-

> for the Environment. The Mayor will set the Budget, which will have to be approved in a vote each year by

the assembly. The Government has yet to decide where the greater London authority (GLA) will be based, but possible locations for its offices include County Hall, district councils outside London. the former GLC building; offices at Canary Wharf and Admiralty Arch, which was used for the bomeless at Christmas.

Leading article page 20

*CHOOSE FROM THESE EA CLASSICS



Turn again: Ken Livingstone as his famed predecessor, during his time as GLC supremo

Role models

directly elected; four-year term; powers wide ranging, and cannot be sacked by

Munich: Christian Ude * (Social Democrat); 1.3 million voters; directly elected; sixyear term; moderate to strong powers as chief executive of the city.



New York Rudolph Giulian (Republican, above); 7.5 million voters; directly elected; four-year term; very strong powers - personally appoints main departmental heads except police chief.

Chicago: Richard Daley (Democrat) 1.3 million voters; directly elected; fouryear term; powers weak but control of party machine can



Paris: Jean Tiberi (Gaullist, above) 2.2 million voters; indirectly elected; six-year term; moderate-to-strong powers but central government retains some key powers over city. Barcelona: Pasqual Maragali (Socialist): 1.7 million voters: indirectly elected; four-year

stronger if controls a party with a majority. Rome: Francesco Rutelli (Radical Green) 2.8 million voters; directly elected but linked to party lists four-year term; moderate powers. Sydney: Frank Sartor (Independent); 14,000 voters;

directly elected; four-year term; weak powers. Tokyo: Yukio Aoshima (Non-partisan) 11.5 million voters; four-year term; strong powers - can veto assembly decisions and dissolve assembly for new elections.

Few black faces in the corridors of power

you will have to look hard for tion, the effect is diluted because the reduced number of ethnic London's ethnic minorities is in the city's corridors of power.

At present a little more than 10 per cent of the capital's 700plus councillors are black, and none head local authorities - despite making up a quarter of the population. Under the present system - and that proposed for the mayor and the Greater London Authority - there is little chance for a change.

For London's black population, the ever-growing gap between population and political representation leads to a spiral of little political representation, followed by disenchantment, followed by low voter registration and finally by the frustration of a minority unable to master its own destiny.

Too apocalyptic? Not according to a survey for Time Out, the London news and events magazine, of 18- to 35-year-old black people. It found last year that only half of those questioned were registered to vote and one in five would not turn up on election day. The reason for staying away was "they felt excluded from a white-dominated political process".

Interestingly when asked what would change their minds, nearly 45 per cent replied the strongest motive to vote would be "more black candidates".

though more than 85 per cent of LONDON is the capital, not only of the country, but of Black cent of Asians cast their votes for Britain. Yet one of the few places Labour in the last general elec-

> minority citizens likely to vote. Why does this bappen? In a word, discrimination. It is not just that white electorates are reluctant to vole for ethnic minority candidates, but party hierarchies stymie politicians' progress.

This analysis was used to promote another minority women in politics. The Labour Party introduced "women-only" sbort lists before the 1997 election and saw the number of female MPs rise from 63 to 120 last year. It was only stopped because the courts declared it illegal.

In the United States, a more radical move in 1990 was initiated by President Bush's Justice Department. Officials baldly stated that racism made it impossible for blacks and Latinos to get elected withnut help.

So a programme of gerrymandering was sanctioned creating congressional districts with "minority majorities". It got results. The number of black Congressmen and women rose from 22 to 39 in 1992. Again the judiciary intervened and re-drew the boundaries.

Spin doctors may not prescribe them - but these bitter pills may be the only way to treat the electoral malaise of underrepresentation in London.

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ick faces int ors of power

Serb leader stokes fires of war in Kosovo

in Glodjane

IT IS the same pattern, all over again. One destroyed house, and more badly damaged. Four Albanian dead, and one Serb policeman. Both sides blame the other and expect things to get worse. Another Balkan war is nn the way.

In Bonn, the six-member contact group on Yugoslavia -Britain, France, Germany, Italy, Russia, and the United States - met to decide what to do about the exploding violence in the Albanian majority Serbian province nf Kosovo.

They decided, in effect, that the answer was: not very much. Theoretically, sanctions will be imposed in four weeks time if President Slnbodan Milosevic fails to initiate peace talks with Kosovo's Albanians. That hesitant proposal suggests the West remains as confused as it always has been about how to deal with the Yngoslav leader.

In the village of Glodjane, where the latest killings in Kosovo took place, the fire has been well stoked. Brutality begets bitterness, and determination. As you turn off onto the road that leads to Glodjane, 50 miles west of the Kosovo capital, Pristica, Albanian meo greet you with victory signs, as though their battle with the Serbs was already won.



son to feel victorious. Tractors and carts were leaving Glodjane yesterday; villagers fear a renewal of Tuesday's violence. Idajet and her husband Janos sat with their four children on a tractor. All they had was a change of children's clothes. They do not know when they

we?" asked Idajet. "None." The course of events on Tuesday remains unclear. According to the Serbs, they ran into an Albanian ambush. The Albanians insist there was an unprovoked assault by the Serbs. The Albanians deny a

Glodiane and several neighbouring villages were descried yesterday, except for roaming groups of visiting locals, who had come to inspect the damage for themselves. There was a curiously unsettled atmosphere as dozens of youths wanwill return, "What future have dered through the empty villages and gazed at the damage done by the Serbs.

icate this Albanian intifada.

Some Albanians are keen to ensure the official Albanian version is all anybody hears. One remaining villager began describing Thesday's events-including the hours of shooting form of guerrilla resistance and the Serb helicopters that movement is growing. The landed ontside his house. But Serbs deny they use unlimited a self-important man in a suit "How can this go on?"

boy in the the village of Dubrava 100km west of Pristina, capital of Kosovo, Last night there were clashes in the village between Serb police and members of the Kosovo liberation who are calling for independence

> Photograph: Radu Signeti/Reuters

was eager to prevent him giving his eye-witness account. The man in the suit held a furtive conversation, accompanied by emphatic hand gestures. Speaking freely to a foreign journalist was clearly not

Serb headlines talked yesterday of how the police had "liquidated terrorists": the front page headline in the Albanianlanguage Koha Ditore listed the villages that had been attacked, like a role call of death.

These clashes seem certain to be only a foretaste of what is yet to come. Mr Milosevic unleashed Serb nationalism in Kosovo as a way nf strengthening his power. The Balkan wars that began in 1991 have helped to keep him in power. Now, it may be Kosovo's turn.

There is a general expectation here - much stronger than ever before - that Kosovo is on the edge of conflagration. "We want freedom - or we want war," said one man in the old town of Pecs just a few miles away from the latest violence; vesterday.

The Serbs fear what might happen to them. But the Albanians are still more tranmatised. "We live like dead people. We have nothing," said one Albanian in the village of Dubrava. where Thesday's ambush was said to have taken place.

Doubts pushed aside as Emu gathers pace

in Brussels

THE European Commission cleared the way yesterday for 11 countries to join the single currency in 1999 and eased the path for Britain to become the 12th.

Casting aside doubts about glaringly high debt levels, particularly in Italy and Belgium, Brussels confirmed that all the applicants for first-wave membership, except Greece, now meet the economic entry conditions laid down in the Maas-

A special EU summit at the beginning of May is set to endorse membership of the Euro zone from next January for France, Germany, Holland, Belgium, Luxembourg, Ireland, Finland, Spain. Portugal, Italy

and Austria. The Commission's report makes it clear that membership of the Exchange Rate Mechanism is a pre-condition to joining Emu, but in a decision with significant implications for Britain, dropped its insistence

that this must be for two years. Britain, which was ejected from the ERM in 1992, has disputed the interpretation of the rule on ERM membership, arguing that currency stability over time, ant technical membership, is the key. While Yves-Thibault de Silguy, the EU monetary affairs commissioner confirmed yesterday that formal membership of the mechanism is required, he did not specify for how long.

Jacques Santer, the Commission President, went further in explaining how Italy and lay down the battle lines be- basis of the report."



Jaques Santer: Concession to Italy and Finland

Finland were cleared for membership, despite having been in the ERM for less than the prescribed time. "Guaranteed stability of exchange rates prevailed over participation in the ERM for two years," he

The Commission claimed

where the Euro can now suc-

Critics who claim the Maastricht criteria have been fudged to permit the realisation of a political dream will point to a separate report on convergence from the European Mnnetary Institute, the forerunner of the future European Central Bank.

The EMI praised overall progress, but singled out Italy and Belgium for criticism on failing to bring debt levels down. The EMI also raised doubts about the ability of France and Germany to con-

solidate their public finances. In its own verdict, the Dutch Central Bank yesterday echoed concerns voiced in recent weeks by senior Dutch political figures about Italy. Its report concludes that genuine conver-

have converged to the point lic deficits and inflation, remains fragile.

But supporters of Emu rejected claims that fudging, or the convenient conjuncture of economic cycles, had brought about the right figures on the day. "This is the beginning of a new era. We are giving ourselves a monetary tool which will be one of the most important in the world" Jacoues Chirac, the Prench President, said.

Mr Santer said the Commission had studied a range of factors to determine whether member states could stick to the tough fiscal disciplines they have achieved to qualify.

EU commissioner Sir Leon Brittan hailed the Commission's verdict as a powerful rebuff to single-currency opponents. "At first they argued that the economic situation meant that Emu could not possibly go ahead on time and would have to be postponed: they have been proved wrong. Then they said only a handful of countries would be in a position to qualify: wrong again ... today's report shows that the progress made has been so huge that no conceivable allegation of fudging can explain it

According to the Commission's assessment, all but Greece, of the member states who want to join in the first wave, have public deficits which are at nr below the 3 per cent of GDP allowed by the treaty.

Debt in only four countries was below the 60 per cent of GDP target in 1997, but almost all have reversed the trend of rising debt, so qualify.

Currency approval

nal yesterday that Britain will accept the findings of the European Commission approvthe European single currency, in spite of it being attacked as a "fudge" by the Conservatives, writes Colin Brown, Chief Political Correspondent.

The report raised the possibility of Europe launching a "soft" single currency which the Tories believe threatens to drive the pound higher, and risk recession in Britain, and could

TONY BLAIR gave a clear sig- tween the parties for the general election.

Mr Blair emressed concern about the "very high level of the ing 11 countries for joining pound" for exporters, but firmly rejected claims by William Hague, the Tory leader, that the Commission report had "findged" the debt ratios of eight of the 11 countries.

The Prime Minister told MPs: "There are a range of criteria to take into account. When we take our decision as president of the European Commission we will do it on the

Nigeria attacked over press repression cluding prize-winning writer Christine than the sword: "When journalists are mur-

By Nicholas von Herberstein

EVERY two weeks a journalist gets killed, and every three days a journalist gets arrested, according to the Committee to Protect Journalists. It announced yesterday that 129 journalists were jailed in 24 countries around the world and 26 killed

The report targets Nigeria as the worst offender, which is holding more journalists than any other African country, in-

Anyanwu. Although Turkey had released 40 journalists during the course of the year 29 were still being detained. While the imprisonment of journalists sounds abhorrent, a fate far worse has befallen 26 journalists who have been killed in the pursuit of their profession.

Unlike a soldier who may be equipped to deal with violent situations, a journalist's weapon is the pen, though for the 26 journalists it certainly wasn't mightier less, the killings would subside," he added.

dered or brutalised, it is almost always by some government, some organisation, some criminal cartel, or some individual wanting to prevent the flow of embarrassing or incriminating information to the public," said Gene Roberts, chairman of the

"If the assassins learned that when they killed journalists, the inevitable result was that they got more coverage rather than FATURING: GRAS MUBBIS Tonight /1:00 am 97-99 BBC RADIO 1

Romans hurtle along tram-lines towards a chaotic millennium





Crush hour: Passengers (left) in close quarters on a No 8 tram, having queued for the dubious privilege (above). One of the villains of the piece is the Mayor of Rome, Francesco Rutelli (right), who found himself toasting an empty track last Saturday at the inauguration of the line, as it was still incomplete

Photographs: Marucci Maurizio



IT WAS supposed in be Rome's Andrew Gumbel finds the Eternal City on a one-way road to ruin with a hi-tech transport system that failed to deliver dream machine for the Millennium. Not so much a tram as a flying carpet, a high-speed, hitech, electronic monster that cooked up this scheme forgot would whisk 300,000 people painlessly from their commuter

suburbs to the centre. Nothing could go wrong. they said, since the tram would have its own dedicated track and pass every two to three minutes. So confident were the city fathers that they cancelled half a four serious breakdowns, fallen dozen huses that used to ply the same route, declaring them excess to requirement. Even the guishable human pulp and protraffic lights would turn green on command, thanks to some voked the beginnings of a

The town planners who "Off with their heads!" the tram to make onward conyelled a middle-aged woman amidst the mayhem on inone thing. This is Rome, a city where nothing can be taken for auguration day, directing her

granted except chronic urban anger at the mayor, the head of dysfunction. Three days into its the bus company - anybody she existence, the No 8 tram from could think of to blame. "Don't Casalotto in the western suburbs treat us like cattle, resign!' to Largo Argentina in the heart echoed half a tramload on Tuesof the old city has suffered day, their mouths wriggling about for air above the crush way behind its ambitious schedlike shipwreck survivors fightule, mashed pensioners, babies ing to stay afloat. It did not help that traffic and invalids into an indistin-

around Largo Argentina has been completely redirected to cohblestones instead of plain

nections. The square has turned into a seething mass of angry commuters, jammed cars and buses unable to negotiate the ludicrously tight bend into which they have all been stuffed.

This disaster has been a long time a-coming. The tramline was supposed to have been finished for last November's mayoral elections, but got held up when the Culture Ministry insisted at the last minute that the route be surfaced with

It was too late to use real cobblestones, since the tracks had already been cemented in. there were no jumbo super-An exasperated Rome city council was forced to nrder fake comblestone tops no more stead) and no "smart" traffic than a conple of inches thick that obstinately turned red and, when it turned out the job could not be done locally, it had instead of green when the tram to subcontract the job out to

A new inauguration date was fixed for last Saturday, but the mayor, Francesco Rutelli, found himself toasting an empty track since the line was still

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When the service finally hrakes and send heads crashing started at 6am on Monday, trams ready (the bus company had to use old rickety ones inlights, just the usual dumb ones

approached. The ticket machine at Casalotto refused to give any change, forcing honest passengers to roam the district in search of an opeo bar. Pedestrians paid no attention to the tram whatever, forcing drivers to slam on the

against the window-panes. As a result, the journey time

for the full stretch almost douhled from the projected 20 minutes to nearer 40. Time and again, the trams got so full the doors could not open and one of them gave up the ghost near the education ministry in Trastevere. "Hey Mr Mayor, give us back our buses!" they shouted as the mechanics vainly played with the emergency switches to try to kick the tram back to life. Actually, the pas-sengers wish has been granted.

A desperate city council has put four buses on standby on their old route down Viale Trastevere in case of delays while the bus company struggles to prise open the doors of the No 8.

Name of this bodes well for the year 2000, when up to 30 million pilgrims will flood into town for the Vatican's millennial Jubilee, Apart from the supertram, Rome has no significant infrastructural improvements to offer. A plan to build a new metro line beneath the centre fell through, as did a tunnel that would have hurrowed under the Castel Sant'Angelo. Fasteo your seatbelts, folks, it's going to be a humpy ride.

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French Right anoints Blair

TONY BLAIR is a Gaullist This was the drift of the friendly, low-key French media reaction yesterday to the Prime Minister's speech to the National Assembly.

There was praise for Mr Blair's French, and excited comments from right-of-centre French politicians, claiming

The Left was reserved, even frosty. The Socialist Prime Minister, Lionel Jospin, felt the need to quibble with Mr Blair oo one point. Mr Blair told the Assembly that ideology was dead: there was no longer a leftor right-wing way of running an economy, only a good way and a bad way. No, said, Mr Jospin, there were still good and bad left-wing policies and good and bad right-wing policies.

Le Monde, the left-of-centre newspaper, gave Mr Blair's visit only a short story at the bottom of an inside page. The British Prime Minister had, the paper said, "got up to speak with the delighted smile of a child" discovering the gilded splendour of the French

given a detailed defence of Blairism, and had oot mouthed the traditional empty phrases.

Le Figaro, the right-wing daily, was the only paper to put Mr Blair on the front, under the headline: "The sound advice of Tony Blair". Asked what he thought of the speech, Jean-Pierre Chevenement (radical socialist and interior minister) said in English: "I admire his French." Paul Quilès, a Socialwas more damning: "Usually people who announce the arrival of a new world are either

naïve or disturbing." The ceotre-right's uproarious approval of Mr Blair's address owed something, no doubt, to a release of tension after a week of in-fighting on the French Right over local alliances with the National Front. But right-wing parliamentarians could not hide their joy yesterday at what they imagined to be the discomfiture of the Left. Pierre Lelouche, a Gaullist and right-wing thinker, said: "It was very amusing. It was a fine lesson in Thatcherism, addressed as much to the French Left as the French Right ... truly, it was a delight." Patrick

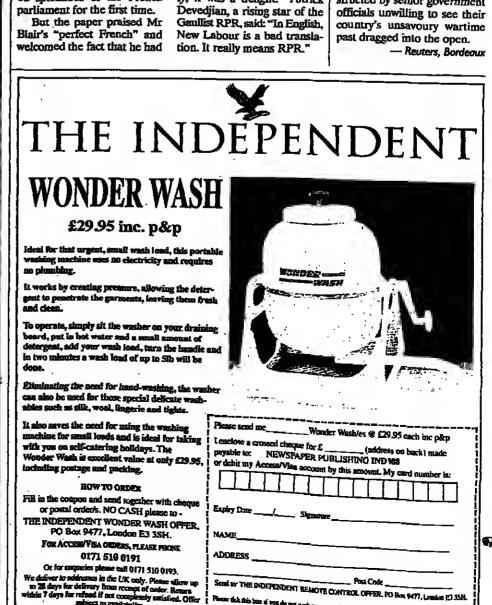
Papon trial halted by wife's death

THE JUDGE in the trial of the accused Nazi collaborator Maurice Papoo yesterday adjourned the proceedings for five days following the death of the defendant's wife of 65 years. Mr Papon's lawyers said a verdict in the nearly six-month-long trial was now expected oext Wednesday.

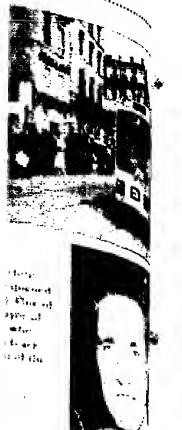
had been due late tomorrow. Paulette Papon, 88, died of cancer at the couple's home ocar Paris. Mr Papon had left Bordeaux to return home as soon as he heard the news. He was driven by car in the middle

of the night under police escort. The 88-year-old Mr Papon. who served as Paris police chief and budget minister after the Second World War, is accused of ordering the arrest for deportation .of 1,560 Jews including 223 children in 1942-44 when he was secretary-general of the Bordeaux region Prefect's Office and supervisor of its Service for Jewish Questions.

Proceedings were started against him in 1981 but were obstructed by senior government



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death

'The kids were sitting ducks ... they were screaming to be let back inside'

David Usborne reports on the day carnage came to an American backwater

just outside Jonesboro, was sounded throughout the school. ed in numerous drills, the children, aged 11 to 13, got up from their desks, and, with their teachers, filed calmly outside the school's doors and began to line up on a narrow concrete walkway ontside.

It was barely a minute later when the county sheriff's office got the first call - "Guns fired at Westside School. Come at once." By then, however, the horror was already under way. Pupils and teachers were falling to the ground, blood was spilling on to the walkway and on to the manicured grass on either side. Bullets zinged into the breezeblock wall of the gym, by the

Cutting the children and teachers down was a ruthless rain of bullets, coming from wooded higher ground just 100 yards away. The source of the gunfire, according to numerous ing on the bluff. Dressed from head to toe in camouflage gear to come rushing in their cars to - the kind that so many fathers and sons wear on hunting expeditions in the surrounding the doors and the guns kept countryside at weekends - they going off". were firing Rambo-style with an аттау of weapons, including high-velocity rifles and handguns. With an estimated nine guns between them, the pair let off 27 shots.

unable to digest what was happening to them, some of the children at first believed the fire drill was being turned into a fun theatre event by members of the drama class. Only when the blood started to spill, did they begin to understand.

"Kids started clapping, they thought it was a play," 13-yearold April Stevens said later. "and everybody started running round". April is one of many grasp what happened in those seconds. And how close she herself came to being hit.

"I saw my friends go down and my teacher go down," she said. Holding her fingers just inches from her head she went on: "A bullet came right by me. It went by my car and I heard

IT WAS 12.41pm on Tuesday the sound of it." One teacher, when the normal happy rounine Shannon Wright, 32, at that mo-at the Westside Middle School, ment committed the most heroic act of the day. Seeing that one first interrupted. Fire alarms of her pupils, Emma Pittman, was directly in the line of fire, Just as they had been instruct- she stood in front of the girl to shield her. Mrs Wright, believed to have been pregnant, took the bullets herself and was fatally wounded.

What Mrs Wright did to protect the girl was described by another child, Amber Vanover. "This guy was aiming at her [Emma]. He was fixing to shoot her. Mrs Wright moved out in front of her. And she got shot. She died. I sat and watched

There was nowhere for the children to take shelter. This is a modern school, huilt only three years ago, and the firealarm system has a special feature; once the children are out of the school, all the doors automatically lock behind them. As the bullets kept coming, running back inside for sanctuary was not an option.

"The kids were sitting ducks," cried one mother, Twywitnesses, was two boys, stand- la Clevinger, who was among the first of the terrified parents the school. They were screaming to people inside to open up

ing teachers began herding the

screaming children into the

gym, the only building where

the doors were unlocked. The

walkway and the grassy area

around it became an instant

hospital unit. The dead were

sorted from the injured. A few-

moments later the first of many

ambulances arrived to ferry

the wounded to St Bernard's

hospital, where long-rehearsed

public emergency procedures

By the evening, when the first

had already been activated.

of the media satellite lorries be-

gan swarming into the area, the awfulness of the afternoon

was already being tidied away.

As police officials measured.

and tagged bullet holes in the

wall of the gym, weeping school

mous to remove the bloodstains

tributes to the dead began to ar-

rive, bouquets of flowers, giant

white ribbons and smaller

ribbons and pins that by yes-

terday all of Jonesboro was

wearing in mourning on dress-

As darkness came, the first

from the walkway.

The scar of Tuesday's killings will remain with Jonesboro for a generation, but the act of terror itself was brief. In less than four minutes, police and paramedic teams were streaming on The panic was instant. But, to the sprawling campus, which also accommodates the local high and elementary schools.

The accused boys had begun fleeing into the woods and towards a white van parked several hundred yards away. As they ran, however, they were brought to the ground by sprinting police officers. The van was found to contain more weapons.

Back at the school the pandemonium continued. Children, rushing around in confusion, unsmall children still trying to sure where to go, found themselves witnesses to scenes of gore no adult would wish to see in their lifetime. So appalling were some of the injuries, even those who tried to treat them were still unable yesterday to speak about what they saw without their voices choking.
Paramedics and the surviv-



An emergency worker carrying a girl from an ambulance into Westside Middle School in Jonesboro, Arkansas, following the shooting Photograph: AP

CATALOGUE OF DEATH

KIGALI -- President Bill Climton said yesterday that he would ask the Attorney General, janet Reno, to investigate the problem of school shoot-

"I do think we've reached the point where we have to analyse these incidents to see whether or not we can learn anything [and] what we can do to prevent further ones." said Mr Clinton, who is on a 12-day tour of Africa.

The Jonesboro shooting was the third fatal shooting rampage in a school in the past five months.

On I December, a boy opened fire on a student prayer circle at a high school in West Paducah, Kentucky, killing three students and wounding five. A 14-year-old student, described as small and emotionally immature, was arrested.

Two months earlier, a 16year-old outcast in Pearl, Mississippi, was accused of killing his mother, then going to school and shooting nine students. Two of them died, including the boy's former girlfriend. Authorities later charged six friends with conspiracy, saying the suspects were part of a group that dabbled in Satanism.

The President said in Kigali that he wanted Reno to find "whatever experts there are in our country" on this sort of violence to see how it may be prevented.

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Why do small-town white boys do this?

Mary Dejevsky in Washington tries to find a reason behind America's latest massacre

IS IT GUNS? Is it television? Is it America? Is it getting worse? Within hours of Tuesday's school shootings at Jonesboro in Arkansas the psychologists and sociologists were all trying to explain why two boys, one 11, one 13, might have dressed themselves in camouflage gear, armed themselves with a handgun and a rifle apiece, and set out to shoot their schoolmates. It was the third multiple shooting at a United States school in six months.

These shootings do not fit the common preconception of violence in America. They did not happen in the often violent inner-city schools but in relatively small towns in the backwoods: in central Mississippi, in south-western Kentucky, and now in northern Arkansas. Although much violence in America is concentrated among blacks, these schools are predominantly white. As for those who think they illustrate a trend of increasing juvenile violence in the US, they are wrong: juvenile crime has startcd to fall in the last two years.

Nor are American schools necessarily violent. According to a study released last week, the incidence of violence in schools has changed little over



Medics rest after helping Jonesboro victims Photograph: AP

Even excluding these explanations, the three school shootings have enough in common to give analysts material to work on. Noting that all the recent shootings took place in sonthern states, one Arkansas academic blamed "Southern culture" where guns were a fact of life, the right to carry arms was strongly defended and on public display, hunting was a common pastime, and children had easy access to weapons.

Others blamed lax parental discipline which gave children the idea they could settle disputes violently, and yet others lamented what they saw as stifling peer pressure in schools where 10- and 11-year olds are already dating and, as apparently in this case, wreaking vengeance for favours spuraed.

And while invenile crime may be falling, the level of violent crime among juveniles has risen. A New York psychologist said: Now kids have access to money, drugs, alcohol and

weapons. Things have changed and they have the opportunities to do these horrible things."

Surprisingly, perhaps, the standard explanation after such multiple shootings - that the young perpetrators were inordinately influenced by films, television or violent videogames - has been heard less than on previous occasions. Although many American parents seem concerned to the point of paranois that their children should be sheltered from violence and sex on television or the Internet, there is growing recognition that secondhand violence does not automatically foster violent be-Several experts noted that

the perpetrators in all three recent shootings seemed to be loners, with some latent predisposition to violence or past problems in schoolwork and so-

"Normal kids," said one sterday, "don't do this."

SILENCERS [A]

Majailed Mictims



العركمة الدعل

Clinton says the world failed Rwanda victims

By Amelia French

PRESIDENT Bill Clinton told survivors of Rwanda's 1994 genocide vesterday that the international community must share the blame for failing to stop the slaughter of up to one million people.

"We did not act quickly enough after the killing began," Mr Clinton said after six survivors of the slaughter described their travails to him privately in graphic detail. "We did not immediately call these crimes by their rightful name: genocide."

Mr Clinton, on a 12-day tour of Africa that began on Monday, told a carefully vetted audience at the airport in Rwanda's capital, Kigali: "I have come to pay my respects to all who suffered and all who perished."

The terrible events of 1994 are still fresh in the collective memory, and the United States President showed a grasp of events that impressed his audience. "We felt that this man understood very well the suffering of the Rwandan people. In a way his message was 'don't despair, the world is behind you, the US is behind you to bring you back to a certain degree of humanity and to the dignity you have lost'," a genocide survivor said.

"In Rwanda, we must hold accountable all those who would abuse human rights, whether insurgents or soldiers," Mr Clinton said. Both the

Hutu militiamen they are fighting in the north-west of the country have been accused of human rights abuses. US support for an international carly warning system to detect areas where conflicts might deteriorate into mass killings was promised, as was

a \$30m (£18.4m) imitative to help improve the justice systems in Rwanda and neighbouring Burundi and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Mr Clinton won loud applause when he spoke of the international community's failure to stop the geno-cide. He appealed to the International

Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda in

Arusha, Tanzania, to speed up its pros-

120,000 are being held. An announcement just before his arrival that he would not be laying a wreath at a hurriedly constructed genocide memorial just 50 yards from the airport terminal caused indignation. White House security people were not prepared to allow their boss to put so much as a toe outside the airport. But as Air Force One took off at the end of his twoand-a-half-hour visit, the consensus among officials and survivors was

that the visit had been worthwhile. The Rwandan President, Pasteur Bizimungu, said that be sensed a "new beginning for Africa. Your presence is an indication of this oew hope for the African people."



Raindance: Presidents Clinton and Bizimungui watching traditional dancers at a wet Kigali airport yesterday Photograph: Rock T Wilking/Reuters

Baptism of fire for Russia's new prime minister

MOSCOW (Reuters) --- Russia's acting Prime Minister. Sergei Kiriyenko, scrambled to assemble a fresh government and to assert himself yesterday, meeting Russian opposition leaders and gearing up for his first foray on to the world stage in his new job.

A government spokesman said that Mr Kiriyenko, who was shoved blinking into the limelight on Monday when Presi-dent Boris Yeltsin sacked the cabinet, would meet Jacques Chirac, President of France, and the German Chancellor, Helmut Kohl, when they arrive for a summit. The French and German leaders are due to meet President Yeltsin today. just outside Moscow.

It will be the first chance that Western leaders get to ask President Yeltsin face-to-face why he dumped his government, and in particular his prime minister, Viktor Chernomyrdin, and why he put a little-known politician such as Mr Kiriyenko in charge,

The young technocrat, just 35, was given an early taste of high-stakes domestic politics whose party dominates the Duma, or lower house in parliament, said he would reject any government which failed to change economic cours c.

Mr Yeltsin, who said it is wanted the new government to add vigour to Russian reforms but not in change course, was preparing for the summit at his own Gorky-9 residence yesterday. If it sacked his government after weturning from a week's illness

Mr Kiriyenko has been given a week by Mr Yelrain to put his team together. Ye sterday he was meeting political leaders from the Duma, including Mr Zyuganov and Grig ory Yavlinsky, the head of the liberal opposition Yablokio narty.

Whether Mr Ki riyenko will be Mr Yeltsin's nominee as prime minister full-time is not vet clear, though a everal senior Kremlin figures h ave said thut he is the stronges a candidate. But whoever N ir Yeltsin may

want, he will still need the Duma to approve his choice. Mr Zyuganev said he had asked Mr Kiriye nko about his

plans but made it clear, for now

leader Gennady Zyuga nov, at least, that he was not wholly convinced. "If the government persists in its course, we will not support any candidate," he said after the meeting, but added that this was not necessarily his

final word. President Yeltsin's leverage is that he can dissolve parliament if it rejects his candidate three times, forcing an early election that would probably wrong-foot some parties.

The signs are that many of the outgoing ministers will be retained in the new government. not least the defence minister. Igor Sergeyev, and the foreign minister, Yevgeny Primakov.

The influential tycom Boris Berezovsky has said that Mr Kiriyenko was an improvement. "Is he ready to become the prime minister? I think not." Mr Berezowsky said. "Can he become the prime minister? I think so."

Mr Kiriyenko, who told the Russian daily Irrestia that he found his elevation "very frightening", said Russia had to act fast to aid the economy, which has been severely hit by falling oil prices and raing wage arrears

Suharto beware: the one-legged man knows when the end is nigh

HE historians will see it as the stake driveo through the faltering heart of President Subarto's government. His ecocomy is crashing around his ears. Students are on the march, calling for his resignation. But most chilling, from the point of view of the regime, is the emergence of a new genre of samizdat literature: the anti-Suharto joke.

For weeks they have been bouncing around the Internet. hut recently they have been published as an underground oke book, a copy of which has been viewed by The Independent. To be honest, Suharto jokes aren't that funny. Try this: A poor street vendor is hawking satay at a food stand outside the President's palace when Suharto passes by in his limo and motorcade. Minutes later, a plump old man runs by, clutching two squawking chickens under his arms. Then comes a policeman on his bicycle, pedalling hard and looking furious. "Have you seen a fat old thief just pass by here, brother?" he asks the satay man. "He went that way officer," the vendor replies. "But you'll never catch up with him - he's in his limo."

NE of the pleasures of Indonesia is reading the Jakarto Post, Asia's most ingenious English language newspaper. The Post is not alone in existing at the sufferance of a dictator who can close it down and sack its journalists at a moment's notice. But no other paper overcomes this handicap with such inge-

The flying-saucer spiritualists

turned on and tuned in, but

God did not show up. A 150member Taiwanese sect which

recently moved to the Dallas

suburb of Garland had pre-

dicted God would appear on

television immediately after

midnight to announce that he

would descend to Earth next

But there was no sign of the

beavenly broadcast that the

sect's leader, Hon-Ming Chen,

had predicted would be visi-

ble on Channel 18 on any tele-

vision set in the US. Mr Chen

emerged from his home to tell

reporters he had been wrong

and they could now discount

his prediction that God would

show np at 10am on 31





Richard Lloyd Parny

Stories even indirectly critical of the President have been the doom of many Indooesian papers in the past, so the key to survival lies in great subtlety. One trick is to leave the sting in the tail until the end of the story, by which time the official overseers of such things will have stopped reading. Take the familiar report of the robbery suspect shot by police after he "attacked" them with a knife. The police spokesman was quoted, justifying the incident with a description of the villain's frenzied assault. In the final sentence, the pathologist was quoted revealing that the man bad bruises on is body and appeared to have been hand-

cuffed at the time of his death. Foreign news is another technique: limited in its freedom to comment on domestic politics, the Post is a tireless champion of democracy overseas. During the coverage of Tony Blair's election victory, there were detailed reports on every aspect of the elections. And after Labour's victory, the Post's leader writer was irrepressible: the British were to be congratulated for here first.

Flying-saucer folk left godless

March. "Since God's appear-

ance on television has not been realised, you can take what we

have preached as nonsense."

Mr Chen said through an in-

terpreter. "I would rather you

don't believe what I say any

more." But he continued to

communicate with God and

still believed God would de-

scend to Earth to save people from a nuclear holocaust in

next year by taking them to

another planet in flying

Mr Chen, 42, a former

university professor known

to his followers as Teacher

Chen, suggested God decided

not to make the broadcast on

Viednesday in order to test his

loyalty further. "God has com-

throwing off the yoke of one par-ty rule, under a single, hated and overbearing leader. If this ver-sion of Thatcher's Tories doesn't ring many bells in Britain, it certainly does in Jakarta.

VID for insight into the future of Suharto. Arranged to see a dukun - a Javanese mystie who provides advice and prediction by means of communication with the gods. Disconcertingly, he had only one leg (he didn't see that coming). Although delivered with great confidence, his pronouncements were a little

underwhelming. Summoning his mystic powers, he scolded me for neglecting my mother, and urged me to contact her immediately. Most unfair! Thad spokeo to her less than an hour before. My companions were a newlywed couple, about to go on a delayed honeymoon to Bali. The mystic correctly told the wife that she would soon go on a journey, but rather spoiled things by patting her on the knee and assuring her with a leer that she would soon meet someone special.

Finally, we came to the point of our visit; how long would Suharto remain in power? "Three and a half," came the confident reply. Three and a half what, we asked. But the information from the spirit world was incomplete. "Three and a half years, perhaps, or three and half months. Three and a half weeks maybe, but not three and half minutes or three and a half seconds." In three and half something's time, be sure to remember; you read it

want to take the responsibil-

ity of preaching his gospel, I

have to have the courage to face the scoffing and laughter

Believing Mr Chen's pre-

dictions that God would ap-

pear in human form at Mr

Cheo's home at 3513

Ridgedale Drive in Garland.

the sect members moved en

masse to this quiet, middle-

class suborb late last year and

bought up more than two

dozen homes. There had been

fears Mr Chen and his fol-

lowers might commit suicide

if God did not show up but he

said suicide was not an option

- Reuters, Garland

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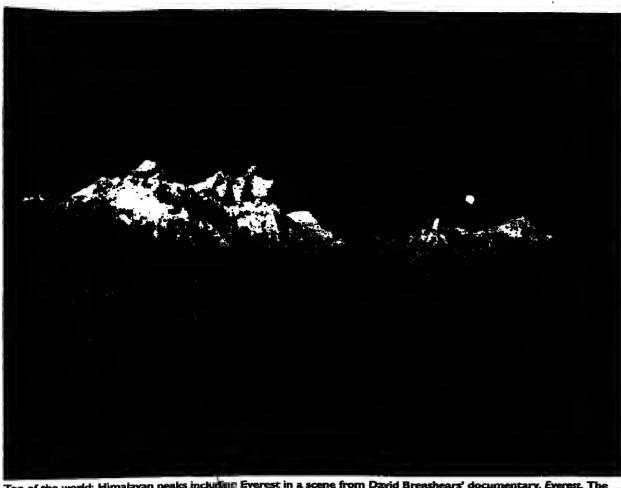
E READING

SHEFFIELD

SLOUGH E SOUTHAMPTON E SWANDON LONGON AREA







Top of the world: Himalayan peaks including Everest in a scene from David Breashears' documentary, Everest. The film was made in the Imax format in Mar 1996 when 10 people died on the mountain Photograph: Robert Schau Photograph: Robert Schauer

th Me cult Sent to the mountain with garlands and blessings

KATHMANDU — Mountain guide Dave Walsh is smiling again. "I've just found the instructions for the tent - they're in Italian." In the sun-filled yard of a Kathmandu hotel, loads are being prepared and equipment checked ready for despatch to

Everest Base Camp.
To those unfamiliar with the Himalayan expedition scene, like myself, it looks like frantic chaos. A Nepali is busy stitching tent material on a treddle sewing machine; Kit Spencer, the expedition's agent in the Nepalese capital, is demonstrating the safety harnesses to be worn by porters high on the mountain and scores of barrels are being lined up ready for packing.

Meanwhile, there's been a hitch on the hureaucracy front. The satellite phone which will keep us in touch with home for be on the road - or rather in the the next 10 weeks needs a air - on time in the morning



Everest Diary

Day One

licence. So, at this late hour, it has had to be handed over to the "ministry" which gets the deputy guide, "Barney" Barni-cott, summed it up while checking the fit of a client's monster day," he said before rushing off to deliver the phone

Despite all this, both guides are confident that the show will doms Expeditions (South Col) team - are due to make the 45gin the long walk to Everest Base Camp.

three guides and seven climbers £30,000 for the chance to climb to the highest point in the

It is an international group - five Brits, including myself, three Americans, a Canadian paperwork in order. Dave's and an Irish woman. All from different backgrounds and with varied mountaineering experience, we are just beginning to crampons. "It's going to be a get to know each other. Conversation is light, if slightly probing. It seems a friendly bunch, which augurs well, hut it will be important to bond the team before it meets the testing conditions on Everest. We have also been joined by another Canadian who will trek with us as far as Base Camp itself no mean feat since the camp lies at a higher altitude

than Mont Blanc. Thankfully, we will be lightly loaded. Much of today has been spent packing gear into those 60-litre hlue plastic barrels. The expedition has 40 of them, most of which will be carried to Base Camp on dzhos, a hybrid yak. Each hairy beast will be loaded with two barrels.

Shortly after our arrival at

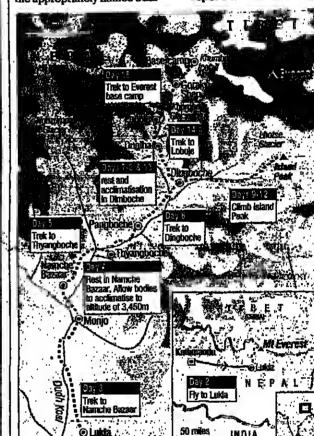
when we - Himalayan King- mit Hotel in Kathmandu, we were invited to a puja, a hiessing ceremony which is intended tainute flight to Lukla and be- to bring good fortune to the expedition. Rust-red tikka was daubed on nur foreheads and a The team is made up of garland of yellow and red flowers hung round our necks. We who have each paid up to drank tiny bowls of rakshi, a strong-tasting rice wine, and ate saffron coloured eggs, nr phuls.

Similar hiessings will be bestowed on our approach to the mountain. Perhaps it is a ceremony that cannot be repeated too often. Even by our proposed route via the Snuth Col, the most popular way up the mountain, climbing into the thin air of Everest remains a hazardous

When I was buying high-altitude gear a couple of weeks ago at Outside, a specialist shop in Hathersage, Derbyshire, the assistant Andy Kirkpatrick remarked that "Climbing Everest is like hill walking, only _" Then he tailed off. Only what? Only bigger, or perhaps "only more deadly".

However we won't have to wait until the mountain for some scary stuff. That begins with the flight to Lukla. This stony airstrip is little more than an inclined terrace on the hillside, making landing or take-off at Lukla one of the most terrifying experiences in passenger aviation, I can't wait.

Steve Goodwin's next



King conspiracy 'evidence'

CORETTA Scott King, the widow of civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr, wants an investigation into possible new evidence that her husband's assassination was part of a conspiracy. A former FBI agent said yesterday be has papers that could help verify claims by James Earl Ray that a gumman named Raoul set him up to take the hlame for killing King in 1968. Donald Wilson said yesterday he took papers from Ray's car when he impounded it after King was killed. Ray pleaded guilty to killing King in 1969 and was sentenced to 99 years in prison, but later recanted and has been seeking a trial ever since. - AP, Atlanta

Legendary boast

BULGARIA'S former Communist strongman Todor Zhivkov compared himself to a legendary national hero yesterday and said that if he decides to get back into politics again, "nothing can stop me". Mr Zhivkov, 86, ruled Bulgaria from 1954-89. "They [the people] are looking for a strong leader again like Krali Marko" – a mythical warrior revered for fighting Turkish invaders centuries ago.

German gun haul

GERMAN police confiscated machine guns, rifles and over 8,000 rounds of ammunition yesterday in a raid of right-wing

South Korean attraction

COUNCILLORS in Kangnung, east of Seoul, planned to start building a museum today to display as a tourist attraction a North Korean submarine which ran aground in the area in September 1976.

Pilgrims arrive at Mecca

ABOUT 600,000 Muslims so far have arrived in Saudi Arahia to perform the annual hadj at Islam's two holiest sites in Mecca and Medina. The pilgrimage will reach a climax in the first week of April. - Reuters, Dubai

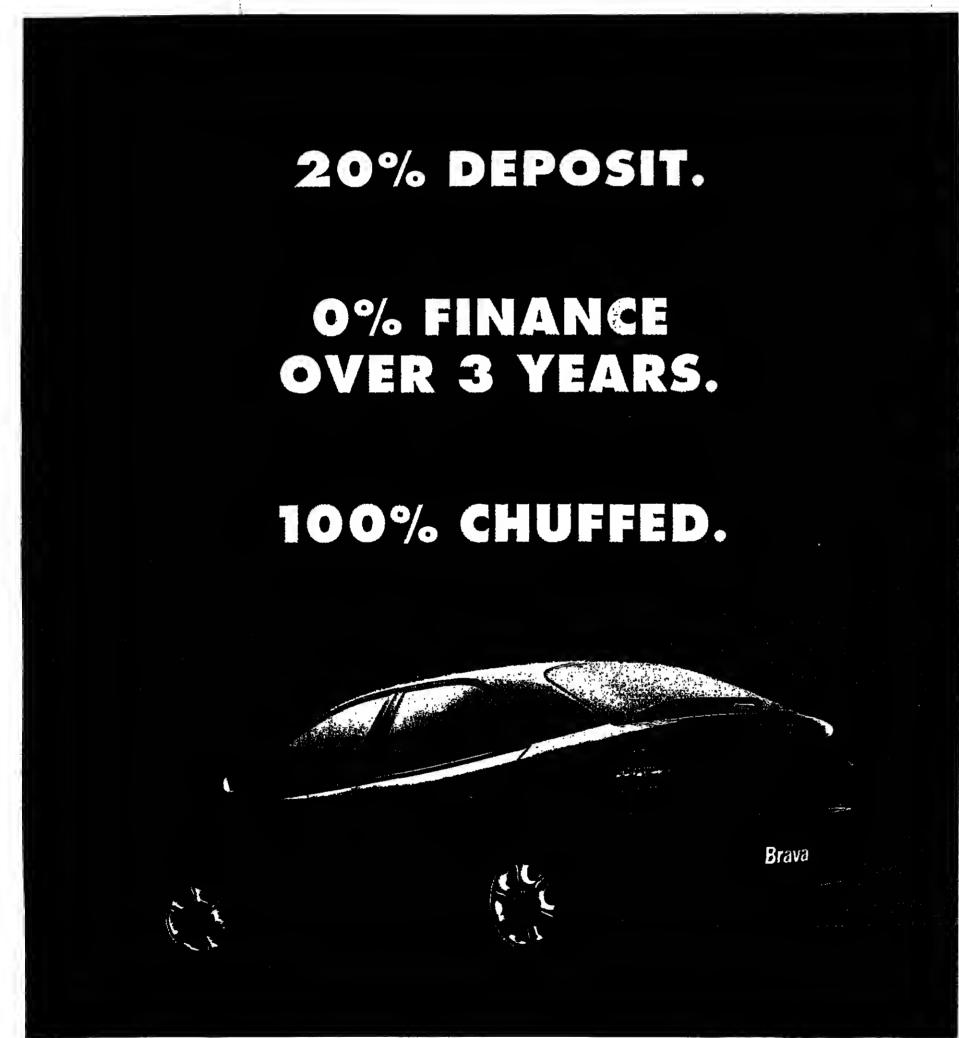
Help for dancing bears

THE World Society for the Protection of Animals is asking tourists to help stamp out the practice of turning bears into dancing attractions in India by refusing to give money to the - AP, New Delhi

Pardon for lesbian

A WOMAN jailed for two years for "tempting a woman for having sexual relations" was released yesterday after receiving a presidential pardon. Mariana Cetinar was convicted in 1996 and sentenced to three years in prison. — AP, Bucharest

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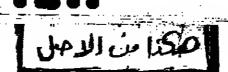
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ings The curtain comes down on Labour's end of pier show

The party's national executive has decided to abandon kiss-me-quicksville, but Blackpool is 'real' and its heartbeat is old Labour, says Paul Routledge

goodbye to Blackpool, the only genuine seaside resort left (excepting Scarborough). In a fit of middle-class pique, the party's national executive has decided to ahandon kiss-me Bournemouth. Chic Blackpoon ain't, but it is the real thing. People who actually work for a lively work for a lively with a control of the co they could, go there in their millions every year, and have a damn good time. As my dear departed friend, Bill Martin, of the News of the World, once defined the place, it is Candy Floss and Torn Knickers. New Labour just wouldn't understand that.

The same

Carple.

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dancing bears

ir lesbian

I have been going to Blackpool for Labour conferences for 30 years, and though it changes, the resort's great virtue is that it stays the same. The Winter Gardens are a Victorian delight, brightly-coloured tiles and millions of lights like an indoor illuminations to match the proper one on the seafront. And those dingy, cavernous bars! You can make your hungover way into these places at eleven in the morning, thinking a quiet snort will revive your spirits, only to find the brothers have already beat you to it. In the furthest corner will be a craggyfaced trade unionist from from hauf, and explaining the mysteries of compositing motions There's nothing like that in

Of course, the journey is half the fun. The south coast resorts are too close to get a good session going on the train, but many a policy has been made or broken on the long grind from Euston to Preston. The

Brighton or Bournemouth.

More likely, you will be dragged

how wonderful the great leader

OH NO! Labour is saying train is always late, but as you approach Blackpool, through stations in the Pylde with names like Kirkham and Wesham, the first sight of the famous tower stirs old sentiments. Back again! Today, it will be gossip, gossip, gossip in the ample lobby of the Imperial Hotel, properly studded with comfortable chairs, where many a late night singsong has ended with the police being called. Tonight, it will be a rencontre with Dr Thwaites' Restorative in the seedy Empress, where Tony Blair (when he was nobbut employment spokesman) was notoriously invited to mate elsewhere by those rough boys, the industrial correspondents of the national press.

For Blackpool is nothing if not ruthlessly egalitarian. Where else can you be called a cheeky bugger by a waitress half your age over breakfast in your hotel? And speaking of hotels, grasping though they are, the hoteliers are discretion itself, as long as you don't make too much noise. Past Labour conferences have been adultery on wheels. In Blackpool, it's surprising the sheets don't snap in half when the chambermaidmakes the bed. New Labour's ... morality inspectors have obviously been at work in this week's deplorable decision. Even the hookers have a sense. Clydeside, taking a hauf 'o' of humour. One journalist fast asleep in the Imperial was awoken by the poise of a lady to an adoring first-time delegate of the night clambering into his he met at the engineering work- second-floor bedroom from monstrated a little, so she threw his shoes out of the window.

And it isn't true that there into a focus group to explain having the finest fish and chips outside Yorkshire, Blackpool has some very good restaurants. Nothing on the south coast remotely compares with Robert's Oyster Bar, with plain wooden seats, magnificent views of the North Pier and the Irish Sea and wooderful sea

food. It is also the only decent BYO eatery this side of Anstralia. You buys your crate of is nowhere to eat. As well as chardonnay round the corner and quaffs it over a long bunch with a couple of MPs and the delegate from Frome.

Brighton doesn't have trams. It doesn't have Tetley's or Boddingtons. It doesn't have a tower, or a pleasure beach, or mucky postcards, or a decent Trades and Labour Club.

Bournemouth has too many hills, and not enough pubs. The conference centres at both are soul-destroying concrete boxes. You know you are only there so they can take your

The politics in Blackpool are live. It's heartbeat is old Labour. I've a bloody good mind to go there during conference week, and watch it on the telly.

At best it's a museum of working-class taste and hasn't bothered to change since the Fifties - even the chip fat is the same, says David Walker

OBAN may be darker, Rothe- ic setting, fresh sea food and say wetter, Bournemouth dear- bracing air. Even poor old er, Torquay harder to get to and in Eastbourne the geriatric count is certainly higher - but among seaside towns Blackpool takes the biscuit as the allround worst place to come, visit or confer.

And in Blackpool's case, it's a Garibaldi - stale, anachronistic and fly-blown. Cool Britannia, it isn't. It's not even attractive in a masochistic, nostable de la boue sense.

At best, it's a museum of working class taste. Here is a reson which acquired an identity in the days when a mill-hand from Oldham could have a paddle, drink six pints of Banks's, have a piddle, eat fish and chips and still have change from half a crown. It has not bothered to update since even the chip fat is the same. Only the prices have changed. Blackpool traders always were great gougers.

You don't have to be Richard Hoggart to notice that fierce, gaudy, urgent pleasures leisure, nowadays it floats in a cultural no-man's land of plas- in the October gales. tic tat, entertainment that is second-rate even by the standards catering which does not seem to

is a fine resort, with a dramat- rules on town and country plan-

Morecambe can boast of more - that magnificent marooned ship of the Midland Hotel, those magical sunset views across to the Lakeland peaks.

To be anti-Blackpool is not even to regret - as Nye Bevan used to regret - the poverty of working-class imagination. Working people have, since the late Fifties, travelled abroad, and come to expect professional standards. But when they come to the Fylde coast expec-

tations seem to sink to zero. The problems start on the front. Rough or smooth, the Irish Sea at Blackpool is always turbid. Beneath the murk float unspeakable things. Blackpool does not have sand or mud, but something ouzing, shifting and indefinably else.

Along the front stretch, for those interminable miles between Lytham and Fleetwood, like the repeating pattern on the wallpaper which Blackpool landladies all seem to buy from if, once, Blackpool's vulgarity the same stockist, the same was urgent, and its pleasures the shopping parades of chip shop, burger bar, amusement arcade of people with all too little and discount retailer, lit by "illuminations" swinging wildly

The famed trams creak their way past barely a single memof day-time televisioo, and orable building - beyond the tower and the Winter Gardens have registered the arrival on themselves (and Labour is right, these shores of McDonald's. they are 100 small for a modern To be anti-Blackpool is not conference). Blackpool sprawls, to be anti-North. Scarborough a huge urban mass, where the

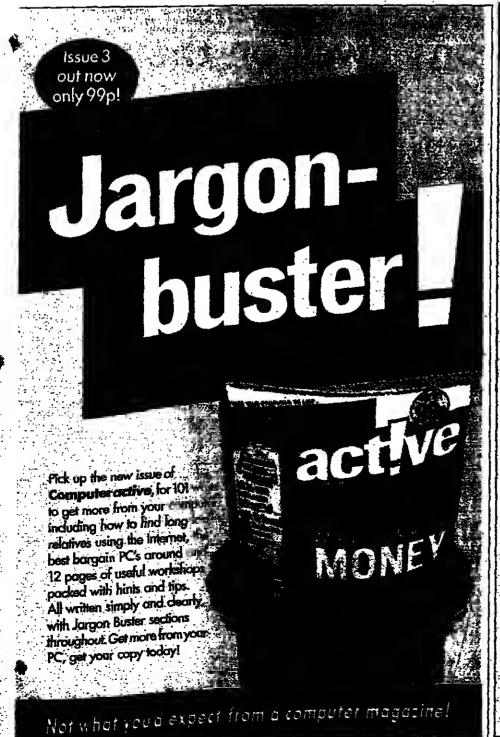
ning seem somehow to have been suspended. Houses seem either makeshift, unpainted or meffably chintzy.

After a day on the prom, visitors retire to bedrooms which were last decorated in 1959. Nyion counterpanes sit on nykon sheets. As the watery light filters in through nylon curtains, you rise as the smell of bacon fat wafts through the corridors. Yoghurt and muesti are not on the breakfast menu.

As for the conventioneers, the fact is Blackpool rarely even recognises there is a hig, sophisticated world out there, beyond hiking prices to metropolitan levels for party conference week. The Tories never dered complain - in public at least - for fear of seeming snobbish. But the blunt fact is that even in those botels which charge as if they merited three or four stars, standards are poor. Blackpool is the kind of place where to order the International Herald Tribune is to be greeted with a blank face: where the telecommunications revolution (requiring space for laptop in hotel rooms let alone a few extra telephone sockets) has not happened; where waiters seem always in he work experience youths who have learnt the completely unnecessary art of wrapping a napkin round a wine bottle, but cannot serve a Dover sole to save their lives.

And all they say about the difficulties of getting there are true. By road, the M6/M56 junction is often impassable. By rail the journey involves huddling at Preston intn a twocoach diesel which always seems overheated and seems to take an age 10 get past Poulton.

If Tony Blair is serious about remaking party allegiance in Britain, let alone remaking Britain, he could hardly do anything of greater symbolic importance than decamping from



Blackpool: a user's guide

The Labour Party conference brings £5m to the town. Each year Blackpool hosts 400 other conferences which bring in a further £50m.

There are 3,000 hotels. guest houses and self- . Catering establishments which can sleep 100,000 guests in any one night almost doubling its resident population of

■ The most popular tourist attraction in Britain is the Blackpool Pleasure Beach with 7.5 million visitors a year.

The beach is home to the tallest, fastest and . steepest roller coaster in the world. At 235ft high the 'Pepsi Max Big One' reaches speeds of 85mph during a two-minute trip which puts riders through a 3.5 positive G-Force.

■ The Blackpool Tower, which cost £70,000 to build, opened in 1894. stands at 518ft 9m it attracts. I million visitors a year. It is lit with 10,000

■ The Blackpool illuminations light up a six-mile stretch of the coast with 500,000 bulbs costing the town £1.5m a year to run.

■ 10.5 million sticks of rock are sold each year.

- Michael Greenwood



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Spies left out in the cold

The Iron Curtain is gone, but the trade in secrets is flourishing as never before. Nicholas von Herberstein explores the twilight world of modern espionage

WHEN five Russian spies were caught in Norway just a few weeks ago, it took plenty of people, not least the country's prime minister by surprise. Surely, said premier Kjell Magne Bondevick, this sort of cooduct no longer took place in 1998 in a democratised Russia? Wrong. The notioo that espionage is on the hrink of extinction is naive to say the least. Despite the collapse of the Soviet Union and the Warsaw Pact. the spy trade has not faded into obscurity. The reality is that the industry is as aclive as ever, with billions of pouods being funnelled into the hudgets of various agencies around the world.

Just how active spies still are has been made apparent in recent weeks with a series of embarrassing hlunders. The worst case involved Mossad, the Israeli Intelligence service. Once regarded as the élite of the spy clubs, feared by its enemies, it was responsible for two hungled assassination attempts, one in Jordan and one in Switzerland, which have led to the resignation of Danny Yatom, the head of Mossad, and the blushes of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's governmeot.

The Russian spy ring in Norway was uncovered as the five members of FSW (formerly the KGB) attempted to get their hands on top secret Nato and Norwegian documents. Norway is the only Nato member state that borders Russia, and the region is home to Russia's vast northern fleet, yet despite an "cra of mutual co-operation and understanding between Russia and Nato", some organisations, it seems, have not received the message.

According to Dr Ken Robertson, lecturer in terrorism and intelligence at the University of Reading, a crucial factor (certainly in the case of Mossad) which contributes to these failed operations, is a lack of clarity. "Where the organisation does not have a clarity of purpose, and is not agreed on what kind of security is necesv for the state, for instance, if they are divided over the peace process, then that can make the whole organisation very factional. Organisations that are characterised by factions on the whole are less effective," he says.

The most damaging aspect to Mossad is was this myth of its near invincibility." says Dr Robertson, "With that myth destroyed, Mossad will find top-level recruitment a little more difficult".

The Russian security apparatus certainly can't be described as having a clarity of pur-

pose. So swift are the changes in its leadership that today's head of foreign intelligence is tomorrow's best-selling author on the £10,000-an-hour lecture tour.

There is, it seems, an odour of incompetence amoogst the agencies that gives credence to Hollywood portrayals. Stumhling around in the dark, they fight hudget restrictions from their own governments, get blamed for failures by those same governments, face an ever-increasing sophistication and technological evolution in their opponents, and receive no recognition for the missions that succeed.

Britain does not escape unscathed from humiliating incidents either. Last year MI5 held a very public recruitment drive. with advertisemeets for staff placed in the national press for the first time. It led to thousands of applications to a phone line. Phone Hackers, or "phreakers" broke into the line with a new message indicating the demise of MI5. "Hello, my name is Colonel Botch. I am calling on behalf of the KGB. We have taken over MI5 because they are not secret any more and they are a crap organisation. All the details left will be forwarded to the KGB. Thank you."

(In fact, the quality of the candidates was, to a large extent, oot high enough to justify the man-hours involved in wading through the applications).

Despite the recruitment drive, British intelligence, like the secret services of many other western countries, has suffered from budget constraints following the end of the Cold War. Its funds are dispersed between MI5, MI6, and GCHQ. Those holding the purse-strings clearly did see a valid reason for cutting funds, although the cuts have not been limited to the extent one might have thought possible. But what many observers believe is that the cuts have led to

bungling - as witnessed by recent events. The end of the Cold War has also led to a change in modus operandi as well. With the collapse of the former Soviet Union the situation has become so confused that reliable intelligence information is only possible by getting people on the ground to report back, rather than using satellites or other forms of technology. The countries involved in espionage have also changed. A recently released document by the United States National Counter Intelligence Centre reveals that, overall, activities have increased. "A number of countries pose various levels of threat to US Information. Some are traditional adversaries.



Out of the shadows: Hollywood's portrayal of the spying game is not too wide of the mark

while others are long-time allies of the Unit- far more than mere military and intelligence ed States, or have traditionally been neu-

tral," the report stated. targeting the United States. "I think that Russian aggression has been unabated even in the post-Cold War. It is escalating. It's a serious and continuing problem. Recent espionage cases involving Russia, South Korea and China are just the tip of a large and dangerous intelligence iceberg."

The area of responsibility for spies has also changed markedly since the end of the Cold War. International crime and terrorism, moocy-laundering and ouclear proliferation occupy the time of agencies

However, a far more serious threat than Louis Freeh, the director of the FBL has the traditional espionage activities is the told the United States Senate that at least sudden rise in economic espionage by foreign governments. The CLA director. George J Tenet, outlined five key challenges facing the intelligence communities to the US Senate select sub-committee on Intelligence. "At the top of the list I place a set of trans-national issues that threaten the lives of all, while also threatening strategic interests in important ways. These issues inclode proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, international terrorism. drug-trafficking, information warfare and the fallout from the recent Asian financial

Indeed, two weeks ago, the FBI called for an increase of \$93m for its computer crime unit, with a total budget increase for

the fiscal year 1999 of \$3bn. "We do see an increase in foreign economic espiooage due to an increasing reliance on technology and commerce, as up or become drug addicts." well as the value of intellectual property", said Lesley Wiser, head of overseas espi-onage in the Eurasian sector of the FBI Winston, was arrested in Los Angeles on Counter-Intelligence Division. "One of our | a charge of drunkenness and fined \$50. priorities here at the FBI is to identify economic intelligence activities of foreign governments in the United States and to Clarkson asks for sympathy: "I would ask neutralise those activities", she said. "We that people be gentle with them, because are spycatchers, and economic security has become part of the National Security

Stars' children pay the high price of fame

PITY Sir John Hall, the reluctant returning chairman at Newcastle United, back on the board at St James' Park after the Toongate scandal toppled his son Douglas. Douglas Hall and Freddic Shepherd finally jumped from their posts as chairman and vice-chairman before they were pushed by several thousand irate Geordies following revelations of their cocaine exploits with Spanish prostitutes and boasts of ripping off fans.

Sir John is oot the only famous daddy to be experiencing a reverse of the old adage "the sins of the father will be visited on the son." As actor Dustin Hoffman partied at the Oscars in Los Angeles this week, his 32-year-old step-daughter Karina faced im-prisonment in a British prison for stealing cheques worth £5,358 from the Cambridgeshire company where she worked. In mitigatioo the court was told Karina had always felt intimidated by her father's wealth and fame.

The list of self-destructive, wild-child offspring of celebrities is a long one. From the death by heroin overdose of Olivia Channon, daughter of the former Tory minister Paul, to the suicide of actor Paul Newman's soe Allan, life as the child of a superstar would appear to be a curse rather than a

Professor Petruska Clarkson, a consultant psychologist and author specialising in the study of fame, says behind the glamour the children of celebrities often have a rough deal. "They are constantly on display and never really seen for who they are," she said. "Other children will say: 'you're so and so's child,' and from that moment they cannot take any of their human relationships for granted. The child will find it very difficult to know whether people really like them or if they are just trying to get some reflected glory and get close to the famous parent."

Dirk Flower, a Harley Street psychologist who treats children of the rich and famous, said they respond to their parents fame in one of three ways: rebellion, abuse of their pareot's position a la Hall, or success - Stella McCartney for example,

Too often or not though the path is rebellion - experiments with drink and drugs. unhappiness and even death. The ultimate example is the Brando family. In 1990 Marion Brando's son Christian was sentenced to 10 years for killing the lover of his pregnant half-sister Cheyenne. Cheyenne's baby was born a drug addict and she never recovered from the trauma, committing

suicide three years later at the age of 25. Professor Clarkson says the high instances of suicide and the numbers of drug and alcohol addicts among celebrity offspring are a result of the child's inability to deal with their parent's fame: "They can't oe comerea to engaç

The pattern is an old one. In 1957 Sarah

When the children of celebrities do err. the world is quick to hear of it. Professor everyone has made mistakes."

Rosa Prince

Can a better diet vent cancer?

cancer research INDEPËNDENT INDEPENDENT

Get on with your life – don't dwell on the past



VIRGINIA IRONSIDE

iT'S COMMONLY assumed that anyone who has been groped or flashed at in childhood has been abused and that suddenly, in later life, they'll be haunted by dark dreams, overwhelming depression and a feeling of disgust and low selfworth. This will continue until they face the original trauma, re-experience the feeling of powerlessness and resultant anger, when they can then start to rebuild their lives. The view has become so strong that now people like the anonymous woman who wrote to me can actually become anxious if she doesn't feel deep shame, guilt and horror at what has happened. Is she repressed? Worse, is she living in (ghastly word) denial? Or is she simply insensitive to life's horrors. nothing more than a cold fish? Or perhaps she is an exceptional woman, a woman of a hugely strong character who has somehow managed to deal with a dreadful event, whatever

An anonymous woman is worried that despite the fact that when she was 14 her brother often came into her room and had sex with her, and that her uncle was a dirty old man who tickled her in unpleasant places, she has a wonderful marriage, sex life and children. Will these past events come back to haunt her later?

of these things. She is just an ordinary woman with as much resilience as most of us, who has, again like most of us, been through a few mildly unpleasant experiences in her teens, and thought nothing more about them.

Child sexual abuse, if it is violent or penetrative or non-consensual, can sometimes have frightful effects in later life. Not always, but often. But most childree are exposed to a variety of fiddling and groping by men as they grow up, and think no more of it than a slight wave of fear and revulsion.

I was hugged and kissed by a horrible old Evening Standard salesman when I was about eight. My father threatened to throw a bucket of water over him. The fact that my father never actually even had words with the man was far more upsetting to me than the unoleasant grah in itself. Creepy men used to follow me when I walked back from school and "dealing with it" might mean. one friend of my parents used My feeling is that she is none to take me out to tea and un-

der the table at Fortnum & Mason would guide my hand up his thigh and on to his crotch. I never said anything and although I used to rather dread this part of the tea I used to enjoy his talk and the cakes enough to be willing to go along with it for a few months at least. I certainly can't feel that, compared to all the other ghastly incidents that we all have in our lives, these were more than mere annoying blips.

If I were the woman who wrote to me I would put my worries aside completely. Her brother felt sexy; she didn't mind going along with it; he never threatened her or told her it was their little secret, there is no more nor less to this incident than that.

If this is the sum total of all the horrific and traumatising events she suffered in her childhood, she should feel grateful that she had a happier childhood than most people did, who can generally drag up at least one hair-raising, but non-sexuand she's utterly, utterly normal. WHAT READERS SAY

Gropers and flashers were childhood occurrences that didn't upset me unduly then or now. I feel embarrassed when I think what went on with my older brothers (although we stopped short of intercourse) but I put it to the back of my mind and can face them very politely when we meet.

I doo't think this will catch up with you or me - we are lucky enough to be resilient, to have a busy, happy family life and to have been able to grow np from it without melodramatic interventions. — Anon

From what you tell us (and we do not have enough details to be certain), although you and your brother broke society's rules, it seems that what he did was loving and tender and it does not sound as if it was ei-

ther exploitative or degrading. I read your letter and was, frankly, profoundly envious.

She's lucky, she's happy, When I was a teenager my hrother never even touched me. Instead he exuded self-righteous. evangelical picty, and having failed to convert me to his religion, shunned my company.

> and let down, all the more so because my father was hopelessly neglectful and unaffectionate. He was also very adept at using my desperate, embarrassed desire for love to get me to do all manner of things that no father should ever ask of his daughter, although sex was oot ooe of them. I dealt with my misery through anorexia and then bulimia, which dominated my life from the ages of 14 to 28. I was so hungry for love and affection that I let men

I felt dreadfully abandoned

for anything better. The proof of the pudding is surely in the eating. You are apparently a fully functioning, happy adult. At 35 I have a history of unhappy relationships, no marriage, no children, and am only just beginning to make something of my abilities at work. To the tabloids you would

abuse me, not daring to hope

be "a victim of abuse" and I would have had "the slimmer's disease". This simplistic labelling is oot only patrooising, it is inaccurate and mislcading.

The hardest thing you have to face is that what happened to you was wrong, not of you, hut of those who exploited you and who led your hrother to do so. You have taken the higgest step, io recognising that what happened in your family is oot acceptable. It has harmed you, even if only by making you think that it was okay. Now you need to see that this kind of behaviour repeats itself, from geoeration to generation.

Your brother is now your children's uncle. Can you protect them from a repeat of your own uncle's behaviour to you? Perhaps your hrother has realised that what went on at home was actually abusive, and worries, as you do. If so, he could be your ally. If not, he is a danger to your children. They may never forgive you, if you fail them. — Sara Clarke

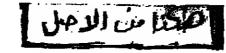
NEXT WEEK'S DILEMMA

Dear Virginia, My mother of lifty three has been diagnosed as having cancer. I have talked to the doctor privately and he says she only has between three months and eighteen months to live, but he thinks it is best not to tell her this as he feets she will lose the will to fight. Has anyone else been in

this situation? I feel my mother should be told the truth, even though she is not a very strong character and has a tendency to depression. I hate to feel I am deceiving her. --- Ning

Letters are welcome, and everyone who has a suggestion quoted will be sent e bouquet

from Interflora, Send comments and suggestions to Virginia Ironside at the Features Department, The Independent. I Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL (fax: 0171-293 2182). by Tuesday morning. If you have a dilemma of your own that you would like to shere, please let me know.





Tom Pilston/English Heritage

Albert returns in all his glory

PRINCE Albert has languished in a black bin liner since 1990 when the scaffolding went up on Kensingtoo's Albert Memorial. The first to get a sneak preview of the restoration work will be Chancellor Kohl of Germany during the ASEC Summit for European and Asian Heads of State. He's in for a big surprise.

Queen Victoria's beloved husband, two and half times taller than life size, is gold



plated once again, while the blown glass cabochons in ruby and turquoise on the orb and cross atop the monument sparkle in the sunshine.

The memorial to Albert, who died young of typhoid in 1861, is, as English Heritage project manager Alasdair Glass put it, "the British equivalent of the Taj Mahal, a love story in Portland stone and iron".

Gilbert Scott designed the shrine to the Prince Consort like a tiered wedding cake, spired to nearly 200 feet, and vaulted with flying buttresses

in true Gothic revival style. John Foley's statue of

Albert depicts him in his Knight of the Garter outlit, which is rather Blackadder-ish, with pantaloons and ruffles. His forefinger marks a page in the catalogue of the Great Exhibition of 1851 which Albert inspired. The moncy raised was spent on the nearby South Kensington museums.

Restoration work only began in earnest in 1994 wheo English Heritage chairman Jocelyn Stevens became involved, thundering that it was scandalous to let go to ruin such a "gloriously extrovert piece of sculpture".

English Heritage committed £2 million towards the restoratioo, and the Department of Culture, Media aod Sport £8.2m. Ready a year ahead of schedule, the project has come in nearly £3m under budget at £11.2m, with £750,000 sponsorship already in the bag and a further £250,000 sought.
A combination of time

and London's dirt served Albert badly. Lead wrapped around the over-engineered cast iron structure, caused it to corrode dramatically. Fine craftsmanship has been helped by oew technology to restore it. The waterless sponge jet system, pioneered for the ouclear power stations, was used on the iron, and the first laser cleaner installed in this country for the lead.

Restored to its former glory, Gilbert Scott's Gormendghast fantasy and Prince Albert's pragmatism in patronage are in step with the spirit of our times. Chancellor Kohl would call it "zeitgeist".

Nonie Niesewand

The office — it's a place to relax

Arthur Andersen's sixth floor offers a glimpse of how tomorrow's workspaces will be designed. Meg Carter reports

virtual revolution in office design. Information technology has enabled a radical re-think, with forward-looking organisations turning their backs on personal desk space in favour of more flexible working environments. Early adopters of this new credo were London-based creative businesses: advertising agencies, design consultancies and the odd PR company. Now, the ripples are spreading further afield - among the latest converts is management consultants Arthur Andersen.

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At first glance, Arthur Anderseo's central London bead office at 180 The Strand is, to say the least, underwhelming. A concrete office block, the building houses some 3,000 employees across up to nine floors in five connected blocks. Built in the mid-Seventies, it has been fitted out by the firm in briskly efficient (if drab) light wood and pastel shades. A traditional cellular structure means that numerous small, self-contained offices ring the building's exterior, while lines of window-less cubicles and load-bearing columns run down the centre of each floor.

Visit the sixth floor offices of Arthur Anderseo's Business Consulting division, however, and prepare for the shock of the new. The floor has been gutted and an imaginative work environment introduced, complete with "Chaos" (action), "Zeo" (quiet) and "Touchdown" (temporary working) zones, flashes of bright colour and free-standing illustrated panels. A coffee bar and other new meeting areas have been fitted with novel design features, not only to intrigue but to cater for the latest multimedia technology. Oh, and there is a liberal scat-

aring of fish tanks.
The redesign was inspired by the changing nature of the company, explains Christi Franchie, director of organisation learning and exchange for Andersen's business consulting

THE NINETIES have seen a division. "It is a physical manifestation of where we are going in business," she says. "It is specifically designed to get different people in different teams collaborating - to foster new and more creative relationships by positioning people around each other."

Out have gone intimidating boardrooms in favour of intimate "conversatioo areas" to overcome "the negative them and us ethos", says Ms Franchie. And movement of staff - and clients - throughout the entire area has been drastically re-thought. Some of the floor's few internal dividing walls curve, some fold back to reveal new space while others incorporate portholes or fish

tanks to create new perspectives. The design creates different moods in different areas, says Lydia Ney, senior designer at BDG McColl, Arthur Andersen's consultants. Visitors step out of the lift outo the floor at the "Hub", or reception area, where they can use the latest multimedia equipment. Opposite them are windows which extend across the entire length of the building overlooking The Strand Along this runs the "Touchdown Bar", a carrow lip of workspace where staff are encouraged to sit at stools, plug in their laptops and phooes and work for. short periods of time.

Bright and airy, this area also serves as an informal corridor between the "Chaos" and "Zen" zones, which occupy opposite ends of the floor, to the left and the right. Back towards the rear of the building, away from The Strand, the mood quietens with other work areas. No employee has their own office, although senior partners are allowed their own desk. As everyone works on laptop computers, the idea is that you work where you feel most comfortable - either with other members of your project team or to suit your mood. Staff have their own stylishly





Work experience: Plug in your laptop where you feel most comfortable John Voos

designed lockers - large enough to store work and computer when not in use. Navy and pale green banks of these units have been zoned into groups under different place names, ranging This is semi-partitioned from the from Antwerp to Zurich (taking in Blackpool along the way "for fun", Ms Ney says). These are supplemented by Ream furniture and equipment is light-Walls" - additional storage weight and on wheels, so the

areas ordered by topic, where project materials are stored.

At one end of the floor is the "Chaos" area designed for group work and informal discussion. screens depicting a knot of cables and wires in vibrant red. All

space is constantly changing. The area also includes three brainstorming rooms - one red. one blue and one green - inspired by Edward de Bono. The idea is that you use the red room to energise a meeting at a slow time of the day. For a quieter,

or green is advised. At the opposite end of the hierarchy. The office of the

divided by panels, which this time depict pebbles, sand and palm fronds in quiet hues. In this area, signs chant: "No meetings. No phones. No in- relish their new found flexible terruptions." It is space for working and laud its break with quiet reflection (and, of course, tradition with everyone sharing

Technology has been the driving force throughout. Not only did Arthur Andersen want to incorporate the latest in PC and multimedia-ware to impress its clients, it also wanted to inspire staff. So, interactive white boards on the walls can be downloaded to laptop computers and infra-red transmitters will shortly enable staff to pick up TV, audio and corporate presentations from monitors positioned around the floor. The net result is more effi-

cient use of available space and a more effective, motivated workforce, elaims UK projects manager Dean Smith. The old layout bad room for 95, the new one accommodates up to 170 with 103 desks available at any one time. "An inherent problem in this building has been that we've lost meeting rooms as we've grown," he says. "This structure frees up more space - nine out of 10 meetings can be conducted in an informal area."

Three months in and the department has truly bedded down. "We have seen communication increase dramatically," says business consultant Abigail Clifton. "It's easier oow to sit and share information with people from other groups within the department. It's noisier, but there is far more interactioo."

Of course there were some reservations. "When you go from a cellular office to open plan, people always remark on the noise and loss of privacy," Mr Smith admits. "Hot desking' can make people insecure." Even so, junior and senior staff adapted quickly. And even middle managers, whose initial resistance was fuelled by seeing hopes of their own future fiefdom fade, are finally coming on side.

Once, the regimented structure of the traditional ofmore calming environment, blue fice reinforced the corporate

floor is the "Zen" zone - again Nincties, gurus claim, is demol- Andersen intends to re-design ishing traditional structures. other departments, none will be And they are right - up to a point. True, Arthur Andersen Business Consulting staff oow the same space. But it is interesting to note that while Arthur

as radical as here. Which, of course, will create an altogether oew form of "cellular" structure - with Business Consulting set clearly aside from Arthur Anderseo's other departments.

Divide and rule lives on, then, if in a far subtler form.

INDEPENDENT

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1960's and early 1970's. Battlezone combines the best features of current best selling strategy games with a features of current best seatures of current best seatures strategy games with a revolutionary 3D radar interface and seamless first person immersion to deliver an unprecedenced gaming experience. Battlezone has already received critical acciaim achieving scores of 93% and 91% from PC Gamer and PC Format respectively.

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London? Sorted

"OI GUV I see you're an Independent reader. Tell you what, you might be interested in this...

"What?" "I had a bloke wants to be the new mayor of London in the back of my

"What was he like then?"

"Well guv. he combined all the qualities you need in this new post, being possibly the second most politically important person in the land. He was fashioned from an alloy of human qualities rarely found at the top of even our national political life."

"Gosh. What were they then?" "Well, for starters, he's a right show-off. I thought to myself, here is someone who has the sheer vulgar appeal that means instant coverage whatever he does. A self-publicist who doesn't really have to try too hard. Maybe he occasionally gets into scrapes, if you know what I mean. A bit like Jeffrey Archer in that respect. But nothing to detract from the important job of speaking clearly for the capital here and abroad. A global voice, no less, I'd say. But be's not just an internationally famous populist elected by a method that gives him a clear mandate."

"Really?" "No, there's another thing. He's got a vision for London. Now I've been around a hit and I can tell you that at just over seven million, London has the largest population of any major European city and, with a GDP of going on for £100bn, if London was a country, its economy would be as big as Portugal's. Not a lot of people know that, Now that's a big city and it needs a big vision. So he's got to know what he wants and concentrate on one or two key objectives. Just like that geezer in New York -"

Rudoloh Giuliani? Yeah, that's the one. You see, what he did was to concentrate on crime. And now New Yorkers feel safer and have much more self-confidence about themselves. I mean, I can remember when the place went hust. So the right man in the right joh can make a difference, see?"

"Going on holiday this year? Me and the wife went to Barcelona for ours. That's one hip and trendy place. They've bad a few powerful - and effective - mayors. They got the Olympic Games a few years back. There you go. But London needs more than hip and more than PR. What we want is, excuse my French, a hit of radical social reform. And you used not to get much of that round our way. I mean, lots of well-meaning remarks, of course, but really nothing concrete. My idea of a good mayor is someone who has the determination to use the influence and resources maybe £4bn he'll have to spend -- available to really make a start. He can get the new London development authority in and tell them what's what. Now while he sorting that out the second thing he wants to do is - hang on! Blackwall Tunnel! Now we're in trouble... Look, berk in a Merc... P*** offl - yeab. As I was saying. Get an integrated transport policy. Plenty of scope there with the possibility of adding congestion charging to existing methods of finance like adjusting the local government precept - the council tax to me and you. Getting people out of cars and into public transport and of course that could be good news for us cabbies as well. And something else, talking about mayors. Ever been to Birmingham?"

"Yes, actually... "Yeah all those blokes polishing their Sierras eh? Now, don't get me wrong, it's no dump and they've done some good things. But, really, they want a mayor too. And Liverpool. And Manchester. In fact any city that wants to try new leadership and tackle the seemingly intractable problems of urban decline needs one. Besides if London's got one, you don't want

"But going back to this Mayor of London. He's not just a man of vision and the rest. He's got charm, political skills and brains. A bit like Ken Livingstone you might say in that regard. But our man's able to deal with politicians of all complexions, old Labour, new Labour, Tory, that other lot Paddy whatsisname, you know what I mean? Don't get me wrong, you want someone where you know where he's coming from but you think, 'Yeah, he can work persuasively with others, be can pull a few strings, be can mesb together the wide range of interests like husiness, the boroughs all those new bus and train companies.1

'Now, I'm no mastermind but I could see that that man, he really bad that intellectual quality, know what I mean? Impressive bloke. At the same time he's able to mix it if people try it on. He's quite able to stand up to those buggers who run the country. No messing about. You could imagine Frank Dobson doing that a bit. Right. Here we are. House of Commons. And don't I recognise you? What did you say your name was again?"

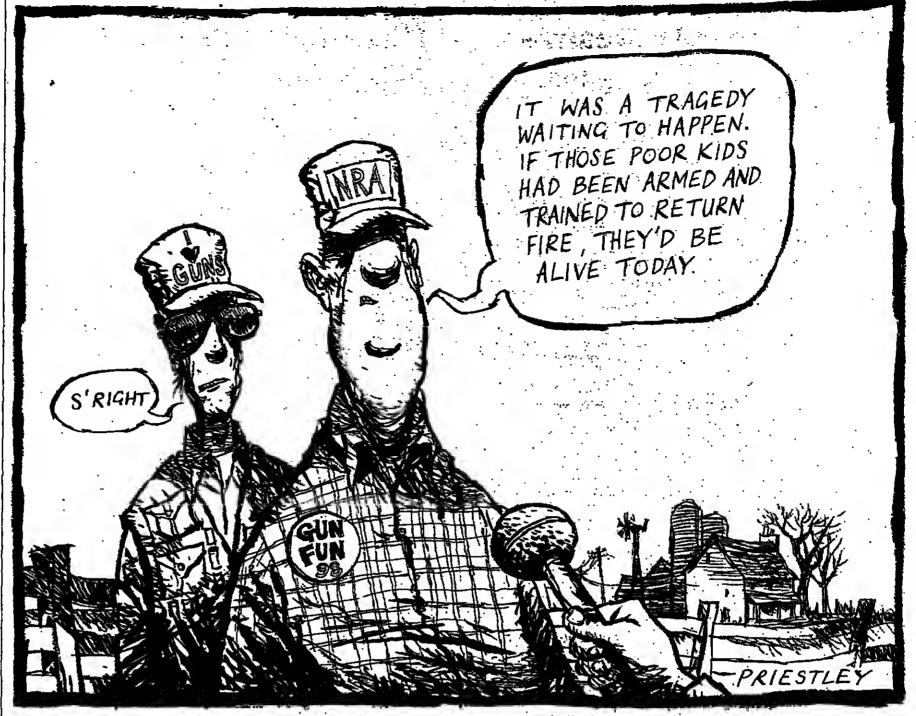
"Er... Tony." "Pleasure... Oil where's my tip?"

It's just not cricket

WE live in an age when stereotypes are crumbling daily, especially in sport. Nowadays the Italians play rugby -- and creditably. Irishwomen who traditionally were not encouraged to be sporty now win athletics world championships. English football clubs are black and foreign in impressive proportions.

We mustn't go too far in suggesting old patterns no longer hold. Nick Hornby may have convinced some that football is for sensitive types, but recent antics on Typeside have comented football's reputation as a pitch for boorish men. Perhaps there are real limits to bow far traditional alle-

There is something, well, outlandish about certain countries playing certain games. Take cricket. To know that there is a Bangladeshi side which is doing some international touring this summer is not surprising. But who are the Bangladeshi tourists playing in July? Scotland. The idea of Scots playing cricket invites one of those Doctor Johnsonisms about women. preachers and dogs. There is no reason why the Scots should be able to handle this particular ball except ... it's English.



Standards for lobbyists

FRAN ABRAMS is right to raise concerns about the rapid influx of wet-behind-the-ears, ex-Labour researchers to the ranks of the lobbying industry ("Revealed: Labour's links with lobbyists", 24 March).

However, businesses need input into the political process, and more even reduce the hours spent on experienced advisers can play a vital role in ensuring that an organisation's corporate strategy does not simply ignore the muances of emerging public policy. There is a clear difference between experienced, strategic adon their "links", such as they are.

tive consultant and that of a party fund-raiser. Lobby firms must not become clearing houses for party political funding. That is a lesson

Labour must take on board. New Labour needs its own Greet scandal like a hole in the bead. The lobbying industry can play its part by sticking to the Association of Professional Political Consultants' Code of Conduct which is committed to absolute transparency, and ethical standards in public affairs consultancy. JOHN McLEOD

Director Shandwick Public Affairs London EC4

Parents work too hard

CAROL SAVAGE is out on a limb when she says that she is "happy to work a 12-hour day", starting at 8am and finishing at midnight, stopping at 5pm to put her son to bed ("Inflexible employers 'driving women out of Britain's workforce' ", 23 March). She claims that long working hours split between the office and home is the sort of "flexibility" empioyers should offer professional vomen who have children.

MSF is a trade union with 400,000 members working in professional and skilled occupations in the private and public sectors. Those with children need to be able to effectively balance their time spent on paid work and working for their family. Many par-

LETTERS

Post letters to Letters to the Editor and include a daytime telephone number Fax 0171 293 2056; e-mail: letters@independent.co.uk E-mail correspondents are asked to give a postal address. Letters may be edited for length and clarity.

ents want to be able to rearrange,

Doing paid work until midnight assists neither the employer, whose employee will not be productive at gle an overload in working hours.

ROGER LYONS General Secretary, MSF ... London ECI

Children in care

WE loudly applaud Patricia Morgan's revelations and analysis of Britain's adoption system ("Social workers biased against adoption". of preaching peace and investing in 23 March), if not all the recom-mendations for change. But, oh dear, oh dear, what of the reaction of such prominent bodies as the Association of Directors of Social Services and the British Agencies for Adoption and Fostering? They do nothing more than accuse, in familiar patronising manner, the accusers of being simplistic and misunderstanding the true nature of modern adoption.

There have been many other reports, including the Department of Health's own, that have condemned the current system for failing society's most vulnerable children. How refreshing it would be if the ADSS and BAAF came up with some plans and proposals themselves for improving the lot of children in care rather than staying locked into that old standby which I believe is known as "denial" in social services

LIV O'HANLON Director, The Adoption Forum London SW8

Church-investments

INVESTING in the arms trade (report, 23 March) raises many ethical issues for churches.

· Under international law it is culture from the office to the home" the UN Charter, However, arms are cerns. There must also be a clear divide is no answer. Parents need to be able not like other goods. They are de The Commissioners do not invest een the functions of an object to balance time effectively, not jug- signed to kill, injure and threaten. Church investment guidelines are often more scrupulous about investment in firms producing alcohol, tobecco, or even newspapers, than

Armed conflict-is one of the main obstacles to development. As a development agency, Christian Aid would ask its supporting churches to lonk again at the consistency

Many of our partners in situations of post-conflict reconstruction stress the Biblical message of turning "swords into ploughshares". In this context Christian Aid would welcome a rethinking of church investment policies. The guiding criterion must be that the life of the poor in areas of conflict must take priority over a high rate of return on investment in engineering and electronics firms, whether or not their business is wholly or mainly arms for export. JENNY BORDEN

Acting Director Christian Aid London SEI

I MUST correct the impression given by James Savage's letter (25 March). The policy of the Church Commissioners is to invest in companies which have regard for employment practices, corporate at all?. governance, the environment and human rights, as well as their share-

In our experience, these companies produce a good investment re-

turn and we have beaten independent benchmarks in recent years. Our policy is also to avoid investments in companies whose main that time; our the working parent, recognised that there are legiti- business is in armaments, gambling, who will be exhausted. Transferring mate uses for arms in terms of self- 'kleolisi, tobacco and newspapers, visers and those who trade entirely the macho, ineffective, long hours defence, as set out in Article 51 of where we have specific ethical con-

er done so. ANNE DICKENS Head of Communications The Church Commissioners London SW1

It's not that far

BRIAN LANG, Chief Executive of the British Library, writes (letter, 23 March) that "a researcher's work would be considerably hampered by the need to trail back and forth across London between separate buildings housing the range of references being consulted".

The distance between the British Museum and the new library is, at most, three-quarters of a mile. I hope Mr Lang's bibiographic knowledge is better than his geographic. BARRY COLE

Drink, for safety's sake

SO nearly a third of Scottish pedestrians hurt in traffic accidents had been drinking ("Drunk pedestrians", 25 March). Will we now hear calls for a new offence of walking whilst under the influence of drink or drugs? Would it be statistically safer, perchance, to imbibe until one loses the capacity to walk PETER ANDERSON

Llandrindod Wells,

Blair needs Blackpool

LABOUR'S decision to abandon & Blackpool ("Labour rocks Blackpool", 25 March) displays all the prejudices of Little Islington abandoning the North, the working class and the whole notion of a party with individuals and trade unions making collective democratic decisions through annual conferences.

Nothing illustrates more clearly the social snobbery of this élite, breaking all links with those who brought them into office. This tiny unrepresentative section of upper middle class opinion thinks it can run the country the same way it runs the party. But Blackpool can do without Blair more than Blair can do without Blackpool. JOHN NICHOLSON Manchester

Suing for distress

DR LEOPOLD FIELD (letter, 20 March) warns against accepting the Law Commission's proposals on liability for psychiatric illness and anticipates an "absolute flood" of psychiatrie reports claiming that friends and relatives of the victims of accidents are suffering from "some form of psychological illness", which will result in an increase in insurance premiums.

The Law Commission report anticipates a 10 per cent increase in the number of personal injury claims at an increase in premium cost of 2-5 per cent (based on discussions with the Association of British Insurers). To describe this as a "flood" is emotive. To suggest that the legal profession is the true beneficiary is insulting. CHRISTOPHER HOUGH

esplinters c

London WC2

Citizens of Britain?

YOU ask if British children should be taught how to be citizens (leading article, 24 March). This is clearly a waste of money while we are all condemned to be subjects. DAVID WALKER Sittingbourne, Kent

The place to go for a crafty smoke at the Millennium Dome – the designer backside



TODAY, we continue our award-winning off-heat series:-

Very Unusual Jobs Indeed Number 43: The man who is designing the back door of the Millennium Dome.

He is, perhaps, the only man in the world who describes himself as a Posterior Designer. He firmly believes that the back of a building is the most honest part

"By your back doors ye shall know them.' That is the motto that should be written over the entrance to every school of architectural design", he says. "Anyone can design a façade. Everyone can clean up the front of a building. Any fool of an architect can make the front look good. by clearing all the mess round to the back. So when I want to know how good a design concept is, I don't look at the front. I go round the back. That's the REAL side

been put in charge of the backside of the Millennium Dome. He has never designed the front of a building in his life. He doesn't want to. All he wants to do is to do clever things with the other side. "I think I first became fascinated with

the backside of huildings when I grew up in the country and noticed that there was always one area of every farm which was different from all the rest. It was the secret, hidden place where they dumped the machinery that broke down. Know what I mean? A farmer has a tractor which grinds to a half and won't go but is too good to throw away, so he puts it in the backyard waiting for a day when he can tinker with it. That day never comes. Instead, it is joined by a car, or a trailer, or an old caravan, which also will be mended one day. That day also never comes. Pretty soon there is one part of the farm which is looking like a rusty agricultural museum. That was the bit of

The speaker is Otto Kerek, who has the farm that always fascinated me!"

When Otto Kerek started getting interested in buildings, he maintained his interest in the dark side. The kitchen and refuse arrangements of great houses... the backstairs areas of palaces... the stage door areas of theatres... even the forgotten parts of churches ...

"People think that churches are too holy to have a backside. Not true. Go round the back of most churches and you find shabby garden sheds, strange storehouses, mysterious entrances to the vestry, even forgotten loos ... I found one church the other day where the vicar had had a TV lounge built on the back. Turned out he had a bit of a horse gambling problem, and used to sneak down there to watch the horses he had backed run on TV."

Wasn't that an expensive hobby? " "Not really. He made quite a lot of money out of it. Sheer luck. Or, as be claimed, divine intervention. God used to show him the winners."

So, how does he envisage the backside of the Millennium Dome?

"Well, it's going to be difficult, because the kind of backsides I like best are those that have grown accidentally, organically, and obviously if I design it from scratch it will be a designer backside. But what I am going to do is latch on to the habit which has grown tremendously in the last ten years: the habit which has transformed the image of the back door; in other words, the habit of slipping out the back for a quick fag."

You mean... you're going to design the back of the great Millennium Dome as a place where people can have a quick crafty smoke?

"I most certainly am. Smoking will be forbidden inside the Dome itself, for all the usual and boring reasons - health, safety, etc - so the back of the Dome will be the only place left for the nasty, normal side of life. Every large building you go past these days has a knot of guilty peo-

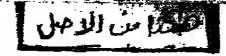
ple standing outside taking a quick smoke. so I thought it would be great to build on this late-20th century phenomenon and have the first designer smoking area. I'll make it comfortable, PII make it smart, I'll equip it with cigarette vending machines, I'll have fresh coffee on tap and video machines playing clips from great old films in which Bogart and Bacall are constantly lighting up cigarettes... And there will he signs saying: Non-Smoking Forbidden'..."

Won't there be a huge protest from all the health and politically correct people? Otto Kerek smiles.

"Let's hope so," he says. "We back door people will take on anyone. Remember my motto...

You mean, By their back doors shall ye know them?"

"No," says Otto. "That's my other motto. The one I mean, is, I feel fine, and $\Gamma_{\rm III}$ out of line, because I design where the sun



عكذا من الاعل

The impossible dream -America without guns



RUPERT CORNWELL JONESBORO WILL BE NO DUNBLANE

FOR AN instant, when I heard the news from Jonesboro on Thesday evening, I had a George Hennard walked into a diner one dream. In that nano-second of hopeless optimism, I thought, this might be it. A tea- or, for that matter, Dumblane. cher and four children dead, gunned down by their own. Finally, America would come ine that the NRA lay down like a lamb. Imagto its senses and just as New Labour did last year after Dunblane, get rid of the gun. Then

How hard it is for us foreigners to understand America's relationship with the gun. I lived there for six years, and I still don't understand. It's not for want of trying. I can reel off the reasons for this deadliest obsession: the country's tradition of individual liberty and the right of self-defence, which a gun is supposed to personify; the eoduring myth of the frontier and the Wild West (personified by cinema's ultimately pathetic figure, the cowboy without a gun); the status that guns confer especially on the young. and the fear bred by proliferation, the behef that the only protection from armed men is to carry arms ooeself.

I have thought long and hard about America's culture of violence. I have counted the number of fatal shootings per hour of primetime TV. I've talked to rednecks, militia leaders, Virginia gunshop owners and ice-eyed spokesmeo of the National Rifle Association, the legendarily potent lobby group. I can recite by heart the infamous Second Amendment of 1791, which provides constitutional underpinning for the gun. "A well-regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed." No matter that the militias referred to were intended to safe- Thus it was with the Brady Bill, which imposed guard the populace from King George's red- a five-day waiting period oo the purchase of coats and bostile Indian tribes, and that the ameodmeot is as relevant to modern Amer- assault weapons, which the House of Repica as the Coro Laws to modern Britain. Woe rescotatives voted to repeal just a week after betide he who dares suggests the US Consti- Dumblane. But true gun-lovers even recruittution falls short of perfection.

Here inveds Blades

17 17 17 2517CS

gan, "Guns don't kill people, people do". On happen. Why penalise the "vast majority of the basis of its foundation in 1871 by former Union officers to improve the poor marks- the few? manship of their men during the Civil War, the NRA likes to talk of itself as the oldest . will be wrung raw. There will be a heartcivil rights group in the world. For us, the breaking funeral, innumerable vows of "never assertion is akin to the Nazi party claiming humanitarian breakthroughs in eugenics; to has tried harder than most of his predecesmembers of the organisation, it is a self-evi-

But while I understand, I do not understand. For all the compendious knowledge and the defects of the school system. The NRA itemised above, I looked on disbebeving at may lose some support. But in a week, a the great debate that swirled in Virginia a few month, a year, there will be another tragedy. years back about the infringements of buman The incomprehensible cult of the gun will preliberty that would ensue when the state lim- vail. When America ends it will not be with ited handgun purchases to one per person per a bang or a whimper, but a shoot-out.

month. I could not, and still cannot, grasp how one such tragedy after another does not convince America that the carnage caused by fireacms (40,000-odd deaths a year, half of them murders) far ontweighs whatever benefit they might bring.

For the novelty of Jonesboro is not that it happened at a school, pupil-on-pupil, or that the gunmen in question were 11 and 13, or even the motive (the older boy seems to have been taking revenge for being jilted by his girl-friend). In Paducah, Kentucky three months ago, and Mississippi two months before that, teenage students shot dead their peers, one of them having shortly beforehand dispatched his mother. Jonesboro's distinguishing feature is that it happened in President Clinton's home state. How could this happen to us, a resident wondered, "these things are supposed to happen somewhere else". Yes, somewhere else: like Paducah, or the humdrum Texas town of Killeen - where morning in 1991 and shot 23 people dead -

But just suppose my dream was true. Imagine Congress metamorphosing into the House of Commons and banning all handguns, and that the manufacturers who turn out two million weapons a year meekly close down their businesses. It wouldn't make an iota of difference. Quite simply, the number of guns in circulation has long since passed the point of no return. Imported weapons, legal and less legal, continue to pour into the US. Sometime soon, the handgun population (an esti-mated 222 million in 1992) of the US will

> The population of handguns will overtake the human one soon

overtake the human one (265 million at the last count). Ban guns, offer a king's ransom for them, do what you like. Bought or borrowed, inherited or stolen, they will continue to be available to all comers.

And that is the argument the gun lobby so mischievously employs. Having watered down any proposals that do reach the floor of Congress, it then argues that the new law will make scant difference - so why bother? handguns. So it was with the ban on various ed that massacre to their cause, as proof that You may revile the NRA. You may mock even in countries where guns were few and hard to come by these things still responsible gun owners" for the lunacies of

> again". President Clinton, who, let it be said, sors to slow the spread of firearms, has once more urged America to search its soul, Eminent men will examine adolescent alienation

And so the cycle will be repeated. Hands

Mix-ups: Princess Di marge, Mrs Bean, misquotations, and some curious DNA



IX MONTHS after the

ing cherished with margarine

and - should Mr Peter Bot-

tomley have his way-seat-belts.

The former Transport minister

has been saying he thinks that a new "Wear Your Seatbelt"

campaign should feature his-

tory's most famous car-crash

victim as a kind of awful warn-

ing; and his tactful suggestion co-

incides with the arrival of the

first tubs of Flora margarine

bearing her signature (and sanc-

tioned by the Princess's Chari-

table Trust, proceeds to God

knows where) on the shelves of

ture, Myself, I have no interest

in margarine beyond knowing

that the profits from its manu-

factore beloed to fund the pub-

lication of Cyril Connolly's

literary magazine Horizon at the

start of the second World War.

But I can't imagine what the

this marketing thrust, and its

implied connection between

berself and a tub of centrifu-

gally-spun designer grease.

Were she in a position to care.

I suppose she might feel thank-

ful that at least ber face hasn't

actually been sculpted in the

stuff, and that it's not a tube of

some intimate groinal balm

("By-Royal-Appointment Oint-

ment") on which her dainty sig-

make you cringe a bit. As with

the famous Cretan holiday firm

which briefly called Icarus ("A

better way to go ...") it may

But the seathelts issue does

nature now appears.

What a charming dual ges-

your local SavaCeotre.

death of the Princess of

Wales, her memory is be-

Winged Icarus, the Patron Saint of Bad Ideas

seem logical but it gives the

wrong signals. Saying, in effect,

"Wear Your Seat-Belt - Prio-

cess Di Didn't!" doesn't carry

tenderness. And judging by

as seatbelt mis-management,

Conspiracy, murder, happen-

stance, Middle East hitmen.

Sandringham guerrillas, divine

intervention, alien assault but

please oot because a few feet of

restraining barness were un-

Soule's important escharological study forms the epigraph tu-

much suggestion of caring and the reaction to Mr Bottomley's plan, people don't want to think the cause of Diana's death was something as prosaic

deployed. If Mr Bottomley prevails, bowever, after the Princess Di Seatbelt Campaign is launched we must expect a slew of further bad-taste initiatives: the Sonny Bono Skiing Holiday, the Viv Stanshall Smoke Alarm, the Isadora Duncan Headscarf Campaign, the James Dean Memorial Airbag, the Stepben Milligan Eat More Fruit Cam-Adoption Agency ...

thris Smith, oor delightful Heritage Secretary, was on Radio Four's Today programme talking about what a good year it's been for British movies. "Ah yes." he told John Humphrys, "what with The Full Monty, Shooting Fish, Wings of the Dove, Mrs Bean ... Mrs Bean, eh? You must

have seeo it. The touching story of a love affair that crossed houndaries of class, taste and protocol, in which Queen Victoria thaws from

frozen widowhood to a newly vivid appreciation of life because of the attentions of a rubber-faced twit in a cheap suit who absent-mindedly runs an electric razor over his tongue in the morning, twists his face into hideous gurnings and dips little wooden twigs into bowls of Marmite to make cheap and tasty snacks for his guests. Starring Dame Judi Dench and Rowan Atkinson, it's another triumph of understated British comedy and Mr Smith is right to be proud of it, Next month, The Full Mrs Dalloway ...

That ceaselessly inventive novelist Jim Crace, author of Quarantine, is up to his old tricks again, I bear, A couple of weeks ago, the Daily Express rang to ask if he'd like to cootribute to their Saturday "Bookshop" slot, in which a celebrated author is given a measly £30 and told to go mad, blow it all on books and choice. Mr Crace faxed over 400 words praising the talents of Ellis Winward and Prof Michael Soule and their seminal work The Limits of Mortality, which, Crace explains, "puts notions of Heaven, Eternity and Judgement Day from all world cultures under scientific, unblinking scrutiny". Although the authors themselves, be further explains, quarrelled so hadly over the question of whether the word "god" should have a capital G that they came to hlows. Readers of Quarantine will remember that a short

extract from Winward and

ilarities. Not only did the 6,000 guinen pigs turn out tu be genetically similar, they all seemed to be descended from the same people - the race of Britons that stalked the valleys left by glaciers after the Ice Age, 8,000 years BC. Imagine. We're all just British, after all. In biological terms, we're all as British as Betty Boothroyd. All of us:

taken from the remains of

Stone Age people (don't ask me) and found disturbing sim-

Liverpool dockers weeping over pints of stout, the Duchess of Kent, pink-necked Gloucestersbire public schoolhoys. horny-handed Poptar costermongers, exquisitely Frenchified hairdressers in Jermyn Street, whiskery high-court judges, low-rent horizontales in Shepherd Market - we're all just as British as each other.

This is a ghastly revelation. I have spent 40-odd years helieving that my Irish-Celtic ancestry rendered my genes a sight more thrilling, more sexy, more dashingly romantic, more charging-into-battle-with-nothing-on-and-looking-like-Mel-Gibson heroic than the gang of stodgy burghers and duplicituus nancy-boys that make up the Anglo-Saxon race,

As for the effete Nurmans, the ludicrously melodramatic Norsemen, the boringly fascist Saxons, the unspeakable Goths ... Well, can you wonder that

we Celts congratulated each other nn being blue-eyed, charming and dynamite in the sack? And now you discover that, no foreign influences, like invasions, migrations and simple maraudings, managed to make a deot in the British urgene that started us all. But wait a minute. Look

more closely and you find that farrago of inventions from start the research has been done on genes inberited direct from the They've yet to start on the Ychromosome (ie bloke) stuff. But surely it's absurd to expect the DNA of Stone Age females to be subject to racial change or to be altered much through generations. It was the men, after all, not the womenfolk, who did the racial marauding, the invading, migrating, rape and pillage. So, until the results of the male DNA come in, I'll stick with my Celtic-hillside faotasies.



that novel. Mr Crace's other

choices sound equally attractive

- The Poetry of Abraham How-

cocaine addicts as well as a

pioneer conservationist and

ecologist", and the oew Penguin

edition of the Histories of Py-

eletius, the second-century fan-

tasist who reported back from

exotic bits of the Mediter-

ranean, and whose discoveries

provide the gorgenus epigraph

(translated by the crusty Ed-

wardian explorer Sir Harry

Penn Butler) to Crace's first

The books people at the

Express read this trio of rec-

ommended titles, blinked, won-

dered why they'd oever beard

of any of them and wondered

also bow close it was to April

Fool's Day, Because Crace's

contributioo was, of course, a

to finish. But stand by for a new

ward, Howper, Pycletius and Sir

Harry form a close-harmony

trange news comes in

from Oxford University,

more precisely from the

Institute of Molecular Medi-

cine, where a team of geneticists

has been exploring the kind of

people Europeans spring from.

After taking blood samples

from 6,000 people, they com-

pared the DNA strand with that

singing troupe.

oovel, Continent,

per, "one of literature's first

From little splinters can grow tomorrow's terrorism



DAVID **MCKITTRICK** ON THE FUTURE OF THE IRA

SECURITY people in Northern Ireland have always been divided on the question of the desirability of splits in the IRA. Some have believed that such schisms are a good idea which should surreptitiously be encouraged to the full.

Others in the security field, who these days are in the ascendancy, regard splits as messy, dangerous and most likely to produce continuing violence. They do not believe the present IRA ceasefire will last for ever, but their view is that, whether in war or at peace, it is preferable for the terrorist organisation to stick together. These analysts are now watching

anxiously as two republican breakaway groups have grown steadily in manpower and technology. They already appear to have attained the capacity to undermine and disrupt the peace process at this most sensitive of times. The question now is whether all this

will develop from splinters into fullscale splits. The new, and as yet unnamed, group which has just emerged as a significant threat has so far carried out less than half-a-dozen attacks, but intelligence sources say it has developed rapidly in its short lifetime and is showing dangerous potential.

That much is known, but in the hazy republican underworld much else is unclear. It is not known whether the oew grouping is cooperating with the "Continuity Army Council", the previous breakaway group which dates back to 1986 and which has recently ruined a number of town centres with large car-bombs. It is also unclear whether the new group is receiving unofficial support from individual IRA members who are still attached to the mainstream terrorist group. Some

small amounts of deadly Semtex plastic explosives, on which the IRA was thought to have a monopoly, have turned op in non-IRA devices.

The signs are that, despite Unionist claims to the contrary, any such cooperation is not officially sanctioned by the IRA's leadership. But the state of opinion within the IRA itself looks distinctly febrile: Sinn Fein seems anxious to be at the table, but the IRA certainly killed two men in Belfast earlier this year, resulting in the temporary suspension of Sinn Fein from the talks. IRA members also killed a third man in February, though the authorities say they have been un-

anywhere." Another source said: "They are serious people who have made a significant contribution. They have been around the struggle for a long, long time, but they were people who haven't been active for a loog

Given subsequent developments, the mainstream IRA may well have underestimated the renegades' capacity for growth. The new group certainly seems to be making good use of the experience picked up by two of the original dissidents when they held key IRA positions. One, as a former quartermaster-general, was in charge of the IRA's armoury and would thus able to establish whether this had been know where a great deal of its weapon-

Even a year ago it would have been hard to believe that such new groups could have emerged so quickly and proved so dangerous

ties as the talks approach their 9 April

The genesis of the oew group lies in an important IRA meeting which took place last November. This brought to a head the opposition to the peace process as mapped out by Sinn Fein president Gerry Adams and his supporters. A number of traditionalists forced a vote, were heavily defeated, and subsequently walked away from the organisation.

Sources close to the IRA were dismissive: "They put their case and it was overwhelmingly rejected," one said at the time. "They didn't get any support, ly based south of the border in the Irish to stop peace coming about.

authorised by the IRA leadership. ry was concealed. Another, an im-There are therefore many uncertain- portant figure in the "engineering department", is skilled in the design and construction of the IRA's assortment of home-made but deadly weapons. He may have made the mortars that were fired at Forkhill RUC station on Tuesday night.

No reliable estimates are available of how many may have joined the new grouping. As yet it is clearly minuscule compared with the IRA itself, but with IRA technology at its disposal even a small number of activists can cause considerable damage and disruption.

It is no accident that both the CAC and the new group are predominantRepublic. In the north, the Adams leadership had brought most republicans along with it, and, indeed, carved out new areas of support with its brand of pragmatic modernisation. Its vote is at an all-time high.

The south, however, has a number of pockets of more tradifonalist republicans who have suspicions and reservations about the peace process, and it is here that the splinters have picked up support.

This bas been curiously mirrored oo the loyalist side, where it has emerged that the fierce new Loyalist Volunteer Force, which is less than a year old, has picked up members from the existing and less active Protestant paramilitary groups. It. too, will be intent on using force to knock the talks off course.

Even a year ago it would have been hard to believe that such new groups could have emerged so quickly and proved themselves so dangerous. The lessoo seems to be that Northero Ireland has a ready pool of militancy permanentiy on tap, always available tu step to if established groupings show the slightest signs of going soft.

The prevailing security-force view on the desirability of splits was spelt out some years ago by RUC Chief Constable Ronnie Flanagan, when he said: "If we are going to bave a peace delivered, theo we can't have people fragmenting all over the place and engaging unilaterally in violence."

If the militant new groups continue to develop, he and everyone else in Northern Ireland will have to face a hard fact; that eveo if the talks succeed, a process of paramilitary disintegration and proliferation could mean that hardliners will have the capacity



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Kenneth Monkman

"NOTHING odd will do long. pected, if characteristic, quar- Monkman found himself on Tristram Shandy did not last." said Dr Johnson. Byron, Richardson. Goldsmith, Smollett and Horace Walpole were equally critical. But Garrick early recognised Sterne's genius. Church Commissioners, and a Newsreel, essential listening in So did Bishop Warburton, a severer critic than Johnson. Old Lord Bathurst. Pope's patron, paid him compliments, as did Lords Rockingham and Spencer. He was illustrated by Hog-sculpted head by Nollekens. It and writing scripts, for 30 years. arth. painted for the Duc was re-interred, with due cered'Orleans, imitated by Diderot mony, in the churchyard at The seed sown by Butterfield and adored by Wilkes and Charles James Fox. He was to photographed, beside the be Burns's "bosom companion", transplanted tombstone, in all the papers. as to many others since.

No one has ever been able to explain the inextinguishable attraction of Laurence Sterne, a delight that transcends time and geography. Kenneth Monkman did not try: seeing no need to justify his hero, he took all this for granted: the ups. the downs, the faults, the genius, were all part of that unique Shandvism, And Shandy Hall --"shandy" is Yorkshire for crooked -was the name Steme gave to his Yorkshire home, the house to which Monkman devoted half a lifetime of love and

restoration. It all started in 1963 when he visited Shandy Hall at Coxwold and saw what perilous state it was in. A medieval house with a chimney that defied the law of gravity, it still preserved the elegant veneer - a Georgian façade to the garden outside, some nice painted panelling and one of young Mr Adam's cast-iron grates within - that Sterne had given it. But only just ~ it seemed about to

tumble down any minute. Over the next four years cunabulist and Sternean, and of the Sunday Times, as trustees. pair it. J.B. Priestley wrote a

money began to come in. Help came from an unex- other views on the subject, and

ter. Laurence Sterne rose from the dead. That is, the graveyard in Archery Fields in which he was buried, by Hyde Park in London, was evacuated by the which (carefully measured by Monkman) proved to correspond, in its unusual length and narrowness, with the Coxwold, and Monkman was

Rescuing Shandy became a national cause, and by 1972, in record time, the house itself was safe. One fine day in April that year, Frank Muir made one of his inimitable speeches to declare it officially open.

But that was only the beginning, as far as Monkman was concerned, and here we must take a turn, like Corporal Trim's stick, and go hackwards. He was born in Carlisle, where his strict Methodist father was a banking inspector, and there found his first schooling. The path then takes another turn, for while his father was posted back to Harrogate, he went to Rydal School in Wales. That, however, led to Leeds University, where, improbably, he read Chemistry.

Due to illness he never took

his degree, but turned to journalism and the Yorkshire Evening News. This brought him into congenial, rather Bohemian, company, and in particular to friendship with Francis Butterfield, a painter of real talent (too little recognised today). And he, the Laurence Sterne Trust was in turn, introduced Monkman formed, with John Oates, in- to Tristram Shandy. It was a gift that matured slowly, to be re-William Rees-Mogg, city editor paid only recently in a moving memoir of Butterfield. This re-Captain Wombwell, who owned called, too, the days of good Shandy Hall, set the seal on it Yorkshire beer and last trams by making the property over to home, of art, theatre and letters the trust on condition that it - abruptly ended when Monkraised the funds necessary to re- man ventured a disrespectful piece in the paper on the twelfth foreword to the appeal and of August and the ritual carnage of grouse. The proprietor had the road to London.

J. Walter Thompson was his first port of call, but in 1940 he joined the BBC News Department as a scriptwriter on Radio skull-alas, poor Yorick-found, wartime Britain, and the lifeline to truth heard in a whisper under the pillow in occupied Europe. The BBC was to be Monkman's career, producing but his heart lay elsewhere. began to germinate. He read the rest of Sterne, and then all the books about Sterne. That led to the books that Sterne had read, and that to the places where such books might be

> Chief among these was the bookshop, not far from where he lived in South Kensington, of Peter Murray Hill, the D'Artagnan of booksellers in the grey post-war years. There he found others, Eric Bligh and Arnold Muirhead, who knew the byways of 18th-century literature too. He began to collect all the books he needed, and newspapers, too, in which Sterne's first writings appeared and the events of his Yorkshire youth were recorded. Prints and pictures followed, with other things that Sterne mentioned or might have had. The collection grew and outgrew the house in Clareville Grove.

> But by now Monkman had seen his vision, of a Shandy restored and filled with what Sterne would have had around him. Briefly married after the war, in 1956 he met and in 1959 married Julia Bearder, and it was with ber that in 1970 he moved into Shandy Hall, still in the throes of restoration. Together, over the last 30 years, they made the vision reality. Windfalls came their way: a medieval wall-painting found beoeath Sterne's panelling, the French porcelain cow that Sterne had bought on his own "sentimental journey", retrieved from the oeighbouring farmhouse to which it had drifted, through the generosity of its American finder; the Nollekens bust itself.



ened to undo their work. Visitors came in increasing numbers the garden that Julia, a gardener of genius, made round the house, and then extended to the quarry beyond. It hecame the most beautiful of such literary places of pilgrimage, visitors coming from all over the world.

Monkman was the genius loci, gently conveying his own enthusiasm to them all. Always elegantly dressed, with spectacles that might have belonged traitīst Joshua Reynolds, he

when wind or weather threat- subject. The digest of his learn- that York University has imaging began to appear, too, in articles on the complex genesis of to the house, and even more to Tristram Shandy and other lost: "By all that is good and Sterneana. The Shandean, an annual journal founded by friends and fellow admirers of his hero, was never without a ten miles of Shandy Hall - the major contribution from him. He was still at work on his edition of Sterne's sermons, the least-read but to him most deeply characteristic of all his writings, till shortly before he

foot of Sterne's grave. The Laurence Sterne Trust to Sterne's friend and por- will perpetuate his work, in Northallerton, North Yorkshire 22 conjunction with the Centre

They survived disasters, seemed to epitomise his for Eighteenth Century Studies inatively created with this in mind. The vision will not be virtuous, if there are three drops of oil to be got, and a hammer to be found within parlour hinge shall be mended this reign.

Nicolas Barker

Kenneth MacKay Monkman, producer and scriptwriter: born Carlisle died. He is to be buried at the 17 April 1911; married 1946 Vita Duncan (one son; marriage dissolved), 1959 Julia Bearder (two sons); died

Cardinal Antonio Ribeiro

ANTONIO RIBEIRO was for more than a quarter of a cenunv Patriarch of Lisbon and head of the Roman Catholic Church in Portugal.

He led the Church through turbulent political times, taking over soon after the death of the dictator Antonio Salazar, and not long before the revolution of 1974 overthrew the old order and brought Portugal close to becoming a Communist-run state, before moving back towards a Western-style democracy. Ribeiro also had the difficult task of adapting the Church to a changing society after the Second Vatican Council.

Born to a poor family in a small village near the northeastern city of Braga, he was an only child whose father, Jose, died when he was young. He was sent to seminary in Braga when he was 10 and staved until he left as a priest aged 25. He took a doctorate in theology at the Gregorian University in Rome in 1959 and travelled widely through Europe before returning to Portugal.

He began a succession of teaching jobs in Catholic institutions and published several books on theology and the Church's social teaching. He became active in movements that sought to adapt the Church to modern times after the Second Vatican Council, He became a public figure through his weekly religious television programmes between 1959 and 1967, when he was appointed assistant bishop of Braga.

In 1969 he was transferred to Lisbon as assistant hishon to the then Patriarch, Cardinal Goocalves Cerejeira. Many felt that Cerejeira - who had held the office for four decades-was too close to the Salazar regime. Ribeiro's relations with the goverament were at times tense. When he took over the office of patriarch on Cerejeira's resignation in 1971, the change of style was immediately apparent. In the March 1973 consistory Pope Paul VI made Ribeiro a cardinal at the age of only 44,

the youngest of the cardinals.

After the 1974 revolution. sparked by a military revolt, Ribeiro shared the concerns of many that the Communists were becoming too powerful, but his moderate, discreet approach won him broad respect. As democracy took root in Portugal once again Ribeiro largely stayed out of the political arena. He felt that, while the Church should make its position clear, it should not dictate to elected politicians what they should or should not do. It was only on such issues as abortion that he spoke out, calling on Catholics not to vote for parties that supported it.

Aiready suffering from cancer and in failing health, Ribeiro asked Pope John Paul II in 1996 to relieve him of his duties, but the pontiff turned down his request. However, he did grant him an assistant, Jose da Cruz Policarpo, who is widely expected to replace him as Cardinal.

Wilities place

Ribeiro's background - a pious village upbringing followed by years in Catholic education, - left him a little detached from the rest of Portuguese society. He was close to his mother and spent much time with her in the village. But those who got to know him found him friendly and approachable. He was able to reach a good rapport with the ordinary clergy.

Ribeiro saw his task as modemising the Catholic Church in Portugal, concentrating on the education of the clergy and laity, evangelisation and the involvement of laity in this work. hut did not follow through reform. Highly cultured and articulate, he was too distant and private a man to tackle the problems facing the Church in a traditionally Catholic nation as it underwent vast political, social and religious change.

Felix Corley

Antonio Ribeiro, priest: born Gandarela de Basto, Portugal 21 May 1928; ordained priest 1953, Assistant Bishop of Braga 1967-69; Assistant Bishop of Lisbon 1969-71; Patriarch of Lisbon 1971-98; named a Cardinal 1973; died Lisbon 24 March 1998.

His own man: Bold, with self-portrait, at an exhibition of Photograph: Chris Watt his paintings in Edinburgh, 1994

Alan Bold

AS a tireless man of letters, Alan Bold's contribution to Scottish literature is as extensive as it was relentlessly pursued. That he should have died at the age of 54 amounts to the tragic curtailment of a career which promised more, much more, for example his apparently unfinished hiography of Robert Burns.

Although noted as a prolific poet, the author of at least one novel, and a collection of short stories, Bold was a maverick if also gifted critic, reviewer and anthologist. His literary hero was Christopher Murray Grieve, better known as Hugh MacDiarmid, whose Selected Letters Bold edited (in 1984), as well as writing a critical study, MacDiarmid: the terrible crystal (1983), following this scholarly labour in 1988 with a biography, MacDiarmid, which won him the MeVitie Prize as Scottish Writer of the Year.

Having first met MacDiarmid in 1962, he found his hero a willing friend and supporter. Indeed, MaeDiarmid provided a foreword to Bold's first collection, Society Inebrious (1965), which appeared while he was still a student at Edinhurgh University, where he was associated with a remarkable generation of painters which included his friends John Bellany and Alexander Moffat. It could have been the propulsion of this acknowledgement by the most conspicuous figure in modern Scottish letters that generated the extreme odd-

ness of Bold's reputation in Scotland. In one of his poems many Scottish artists his struggle with "the matter of Scotland" was arduous and uneasy. But it also happened. To be in Bold's company was

to know that you were in the passionate, astounding, and tru- better. He was out of step with

LAW REPORT: 26 MARCH 1998

European intellectual than a including the fine arts. purely local product infatuated with native things. There was a robust and enlivening seriousness to him.

reputation was vulnerable in a Scottish literary scene famous, or notorious, for what's been described as "back-scratching with a dirk". Personally, I enjoyed his company, hut many others found him intimidating. In conversation he could be tiresome he called Scotland "the land of on such subjects as football the omnipotent No", and as for and Elvis Presley. When he engaged you with Burns's poetry, though, or MacDiarmid's, he was spellbinding. His crudition on these and many other matters of literary interest was

presence of a mind, of someone ly mesmerising. He wrote well literary and other values of he favoured as being a literatiwho was making an effort and on Thom Gunn and Ted Hughwith a capacity for infinite toil. es, Muriel Spark, the Scottish Indeed, in keeping with the ballads, George Mackay Brown, teachings of his master, he was war poetry, John Le Carré, perhaps closer to being a and a host of other subjects.

For years he contributed book reviews to the Glasgow Herald, with style, acumen, and insight. As a literary journalist, It is sad to say, but Bold's he was one of Scotland's best, but didn't get the credit for it. I admired him enormously for the diligence with which he got his work done and earned a living by his pen. True, though, he could be a "difficult" man, and he seemed to like it that way. But there was a teddy-bear side to him as well. Generous, wholehearted, as he undoubtedly was, he seemed to open up but seldom, as if - like many writers - he was too engaged with his own privacy and solitude to allow you to get to know him

younger writers tackling Mac-Diarmid. To put it mildly, he was in two minds (at least) when it came to the work of recent writers associated with Glasgow.

Although I disagreed with him (to an extent) I found his views refreshingly free of cant and humbug. He was his own man, a writer of absolutely independent mind, a quality of being which he may well have learnt from MacDiarmid. For example, although an Edinburgh man, he chose to live at Balbirnie in the Fife countryside. It is tempting to see Bold's Balbirnie as the equivalent of MacDiarmid's Biggar.

From time to time I would see him on that patient, prudential ScotRail "Sprinter" which wends stoppingly from Dundee to Edinburgh. He'd be off for a dutiful stint in the National Library, after, that is, we'd sunk a few in one of the pubs

free zone. No sooner, though, than you get used to the longevity of recent Scottish poets - octogenarians, spry, and they didn't even bother to look after themselves - than something like this happens.

Bold's poetry is inconsistent. It ranges from the dull, through the indifferent, to the very good. There's a lot of it. But as a poet-critie he was productive, reliable, fast, poised, and invaluable. A new selection of his poems is now necessary, and there may be no one better placed to edit it than his daughter, Valentina, one of the brightest of the younger Scottish scholars and critics.

Douglas Dunn

insists

asoin the

Akan Norman Bold, poet, writer, critic and artist: born Edinburgh 20 April 1943; married 1963 Alice Howell (one daughter); died Kirkcaldy, Fife 19 March 1998.

Announcements for Galette BURTHS, HARRIAGES & DEATHS (Births, Adoptions, Muringes, Desths, Memo rial services, Wedding suniversaries, i Memorism) should be sent in writin the Gurette Editor, The Indepen-nt, I Canada Square, Canary Wheri Inden E14 SDL, relephoned to 0171-3 2012 or faxed to 0171-293 2010, and are charged at 66.50 a line (VAT on OTHER Gazette are charged at 16.30 a line (VAL eccra). OTHER Gameth annionpennents must be submicted in writing (or fated) and are charged at £10 a line, VAT extra. They should be accompanied by a daytime celeptione number.

Lectures

National Gallery: Culin Wiggins. Mothers (4): Annunciations", tpm Victoria and Albert Museum: Lipda Woolley, "Tread Softly, shoes from the collections at the V&A", Tate Gallery: Renata Dohmen.

Rebels with a Different Cause: Ex-

pressionism versus Impressionism"

National Portrait Gallery: Jacob Simon. "The Art of the Picture Frame (4): the 20th century", 1.10pm. Gresham College (Barnard's Inn Hall, London EC1). The Right Rev Richard Holloway, "The Reproduc-tive Supermarket", 5.30pm.

ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS The Dules of York gaves a lattch for the Malters For uga Marrier of Buckstybam Palace, Prince For uga Marrier, the Poles of Edulustyb' Marrie, France, the Tolke of Palace, The Princess Royal, President, Sore the Children Pani Blemb then Council bleeting at the South Lam with Road, Loaders SWR. The Dubes of Kon

rhold Charles Mounted Regiment Queen's Life Count at Horse Guards, Rattalion Weish Guards mounts the and at Buckingham Palson, 1 L'Alam,

Birthdays

Mr David Amess MP, 46; Mr Alan Arkin, actor, 64; Mr Graham Barlow, ricketer, 48; Mr Pierre Boulez, conductor and composer. 73: Mr James Caan, actor, 59; Miss Kyung-wha Chung, Korean concert violinist, 50; Lord Graham of Edmonton, former MP, 73; Mr William Hague MP, 37; Miss Jean Graham Hall, former circuit judge, 81; Baroness Hayman, Minister for Roads, 49; Lord Hoo-son OC, 73; Air Marshal Sir Peter Horsley, chairman, Osprey Avia-tion, 77; Miss Elizabeth Jane Howard, novelist, 75; The Right Rev William Ind, Bishop of Turo, 58; Sir George Jelferson, former chairman. Videotron Corp. 77; Sir Bernard Katz, Nobel prizewinner and biophysicist, 87; Vice-Admiral Sir Ian McGeoch, 84; Sir Leslie Melville, economist, 96; Mr Leonard Nimoy, television actor, 67; Mr Geoffrey Paul, consultant, Stemberg Foundation, 69; Mr Terry Pryce, chairman, Horticulture Research International, 64; Mr David Quilter, former vice Lord-Lieurenant of Somerset, 77; Mr Harry Rabinowitz, conductor and composer, 82; Miss Diana Ross, singer, 54; Vice-Admiral Sir Jonathan Tod, former Deputy Commander, Fleet, 59; Mr Amédée Timmer QC. former MEP, 69; Mr Colin Webb,

Anniversaries

Births: Konrad von Gesner, physicisi and naturalist, 1516; Jean Restout, painter, 1692; William Wol-Asson, philospher, 1659; Jenny Mey-er, singer and teacher, 1834; William Edward Hartpole Lecky, historian, 1838; George Smith, Assyriblogist, 1840; Harry Furniss, caricaturist and illustrator, 1854; Alfred Edward

former general manager, Press

Housman, poet, 1859; Fuad I, King of Egypt, 1868; Sir Gerald Hubert Edward Busson du Maurier, actormanager, 1873; Robert Lee Frost, poet, 1874; Wilhelm Backhans, pi-anist, 1884; "Chico" Leonard Marx, comedian, 1887; Richard Thomas Church, poet and novelist, 1893; Palmiro Roglistti, Communist, 1893; Jean Epstein, film director, 1897; Tennessee Williams (Thomas Lan Williams), playwright, 1911. Deaths: Sir Thomas Elyot, diplomat, 1546; John Winthrop, first governor of Massachusetts Bay Colony, 1649; Sir John Vanbrugh, playwright and architect, 1726; John VI, King of Portugal, 1826; Ludwig van Beethoven, composer, t827; Augustus Leopold Egg, painter, 1863; Thomas Hancock, inventor, 1865; Walt Whitman, poe and essayist, 1892; Cecil John 1902: Sarah Bernhardt (Rosine Bernard), actress, 1923; Timothy Michael Healy, statesman, 1931 David Lloyd George, first Earl Lloyd-George of Dwyfor, statesman, 1945; Max Ophuls (Maximilian Oppenheimer), film director, 1957; Raymond Thornton Chandler, novelist and scriptwriter, 1959; Sir Noël Peirce Coward, playwright, 1973; Josef Albers, painter, 1976; Lin Yu-rang, writer in Chinese and English, 1976; Anthony Frederick Blum, art expert and trainor, 1983. On this days the Royal Agricultural Society was incorporated, 1840; the Paris Comnume was established, 1871; the first cremation in England took place at Woking, 1886; driving tests were introduced in Britain, 1934; women were allowed on the floor of the London Stock Exchange for the first time, 1973. Today is the Feast Day of St Besil the Younger, St Bran-lio, St Castalus of Rome, St Felix of Trier, St Ludger and St Macartan.

Regina v Chief Constable of the North Wales Police and Others, ex parte AB and CD: Court of Appeal (Lord Woolf, Mascer of the Rolls, Lord justice Schlemann and Lord Justice Robert Walker) 16 March 1998 ALTHOUGH the police

should have disclosed to recently released sex offenders the gist of a police report which had formed part of their consideration of the risk posed by the offenders to the public, the opportunity to comment on the report would not have altered the decision of the police to reveal the offenders' identity.

The Court of Appeal upheld the decision of the Divisional Court (Law Report, 16 July 1997) dismissing applications for judicial review of the decision of the North Wales Police to reveal the identity of two former sex offenders.

of 11 years' imprisonment for where many children would serious sexual offences against children. As a result of adverse publicity in local newspapers, The appellants had rethey had had to move several mained at the site and it had times, and had eventually

a site near Wrexham. The local police had received a copy of a Northumbria police report, which recorded probation service views that the appellants were

bought a caravan and moved to

extremely dangerous people who will pose a considerable risk to children and vulnerable adults in the comminnity in which they settle and . . . will target and procure such people for sexual abuse.

The report suggested they had resisted all forms of therapy intervention.

After a meeting of the local police child protection team, at which it had been pointed out that the statement in the report that the appellants had refused therapy was incorrect, it had oevertheless been decided The appellants, who were that attempts should be made husband and wife, had been re- to encourage the appellants to be staying over the Easter

Paedophiles should have been given information

been decided that the site owner should be informed of their past history. He had told them to move on, and their whereabouts were currently unknown. Edward Fitzgerald QC and Tim Owen (Michael Purdon, Newcastleupon-Tyne) for the appellants: Presiley Bazendale and Pushpinder Saini. (Mrs I.A. Trigger, Colwyn Bay) for the Chief Constable, James Endie (Tremury Solicitor) for the Home Secretary; Michael Douglas QC and Stephen Barker, solicitor (Eversheds, Birmingham) Nacro.

Lord Woolf MR said that the appellants had not substantially challenged the reasons for dismissing their application for judicial review. The argument had instead revolved around new issues, against the background of fresh policy guidance issued by the Home Office to leased after serving sentences move from the caravan site, police forces as to the man-

sex offenders. It was argued that the North Wales Police had treated the appellants in a been to draw attention to the procedurally unfair manner. having been influenced throughout by the Northumbria police report.

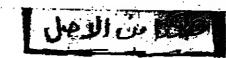
The decision whether to disclose the identity of paedophiles to the public was a offenders when they were resensitive one. In the present case the gist of what the police had learned about the appellants should have been disclosed to them. They might have had information which could have caused the police to re-assess the degree of risk which they posed. Having said that, however, and bearing in mind that the police were aware of the inaccuracies in the Northumbria police report but were still of the opinion that the appellants created a high degree of risk, any information which they could have given would not have altered the

outcome. The result of the passage of

agement of information about time between the hearing before the Divisional Court and the hearing of the appeal had advantages, where it was practical of obtaining an offender's version of events.

It had also highlighted the significance of trying to find appropriate accommodation for leased from prison. If previous sexual offenders knew that help with safe accommodation would be available, they were less likely to go to ground. If their whereabouts were known it would be easier to minimise the danger of further offending. It was now recognised that what was required above all was a proactive rather than a reactive policy for dealing with offenders who had committed offences against children in the past.

There was however oo relief that would be appropriate to grant to the appellants and the appeal was dismissed. Kate O'Hanlon, Barrister



DEPUTY BUSINESS & CITY EDITOR, MICHAEL HARRISON NEWS DESK: 0171-293 2636 FAX: 0171-293 2098 E-MAIL: INDYBUSINESS@INDEPENDENT.CO.UK FINANCIAL JOURNAL OF THE YEAR

Bacardi set to win American whisky giant Dewar's for £800m

BACARDI, the drinks giant which produces the famous white rum, is set to buy buster bid from a trade rival or one of Dewar's, America's leading whisky brand. The Bermuda based group has fought off intense competition from the world's leading drinks groups to emerge as frontrunner to huy Dewar's in what will be one

of the higgest deals the industry has seen. Bacardi is willing to pay around £800m for the brand, industry sources say.

Bacardi is close to finalising an agreement and could seal the acquisition within the next few days - barring a last-minute blockseveral financial buyers which have cast

their eyes over the group. Diageo, the world's largest drinks group which was formed last December when di seems to have beaten Pernod Ricard, Grand Metropolitan merged with Guin- the French drinks group, and Seagram ness. Diageo has also been forced to of Canada in the race to capture the

A deal is believed to be imminent. European and American competition authorities to approve its mega-merger.

The sale of Dewar's offered a unique opportunity to buy one of the world's leading spirits brands and attracted interest from around the globe. Up until a few weeks ago Diageo was still talking Dewar's has been put up for sale by to a number of drinks groups about the sale of Dewar's. Now, however, Bacardispose of Dewar's in order to get the whisky brand. Allied Domecq was also

interested in Dewar's but dropped out of the race after the price sailed above

Bacardi is a private group run by descendants of Don Facundo Bacardi, the group's founder. He created Cuba's first rum in 1862. However the family fled Cuba in 1960 when Fidel Castro took over the

country and seized the company's assets. Since then the family has built up Bacardi to become the world's leading drinks brand, with annual sales of 19.5

world renowned vermouth. It also produces Asti sparkling wine and Hatuey beer. However it has always lacked a major maintain a large part of the existing husiwhisky brand in its spirits portfolio.

Dewar's is the leading scotch brand in the US, selling just under 3 million cases a year and making annual operating profsmashes analysts' carlier forecasts.

A Diageo spokesman refused to commem on any sale and said that talks be- of the Dewar's deal.

In 1993 Bacardi expanded its empire
by buying Martini & Rossi which sells the

If Bacardi does buy Dewar's it could If Bacardi does buy Dewar's it could be welcome news for the Scotch whisky industry as the spirits group is likely to ness in Scotland.

The creation of Diageo is likely to lead to a worldwide consolidation of the drinks industry. Allied Domecq is looking in find its of around £55m. The £800m price tag a drinks partner to take on the new industry Goliath and could increase its efforts to establish a tie up with Bacardi in the wake

Utilities to face profits clawback

By Michael Harrison

THE PRIVATISED utilities will have to share profits with customers where they are "unearned" or result from deliberately misleading regulators, under Government proposals unveiled yesterday.

per on utility regulation also sets out plans to bring the policing of the gas, electricity, water and tele-coms industries under a greater degree of political control.

Shares prices of the privadamental way in which prices are controlled. The Departwanted to include a mechanism for capping excess profits but

was overruled by the Treasury. Individual regulators for each of the industries will be issued with statutory guidance requiring them to take the

Government's wider social and environmental aims into account in policing the utilities,

This means that they could have an explicit obligation to protect the interests of poorer consumers and other disadvantaged groups through, for instance, cross-subsidisation of prices. The regulators would also have The long-awaited Green Pa-. a new primary statutory duty to protect consumer interests,

has decided to stick with the system of incentive regulation dewhereby the RPI-X formula - nies benefited from factors outtised water companies rose in which sets percentage price side their control - for instance, where necessary". response to the decision, widely rises below inflation - is retained a sudden drop in costs of supis for price

This will allow companies to ment of Trade and Industry had keep profits which result from greater efficiency. But alongside this the Government has proposed the introduction of anerror correction mechanism" which would allow excess profits to be clawed back promptly.

The mechanism would be



However, the Government In the pipeline: The Government wants its social and environmental aims to be re-enforced by the regulators

setting too lenient a price cap by giving inaccurate or incomplete information.

Margaret Beckett, President of the Board of Trade, insisted the Government was not returning to Old Labour ways by penalising the utilities. She said a better deal for the consumer

tition where possible, regulation and gas regulators, Offer and

But John Redwood, the erately misled regulators into Secretary, said the proposals could amount to a "back door" tax on business and warned they could lead to permanent uncertainty about how much they could earn and afford to invest. "She should set a price control and live with it," he added.

The Government said it had The Green Paper also pronot ruled out the idea of advisory panels to aid individual reg-

ulator.

veloped over the last 15 years' triggered either when compa- would be achieved by "compe- The merger of the electricity ulators. Replies are heing sought by the end of May. Mrs Beckett said there was Ofgas, into a single energy reg-

no reason why the review hut this would be achieved ply (buying and selling of electricity) from distribution - the through a mixture of fairer regwires which deliver electricity. ulation and the opening up of ■Greater openness and accouthe markets to competition parntability with a requirement ticularly in gas and electricity.

on regulators to justify key The proposals were broadly welcomed by the regulators themselves, consumer groups. and the industries involved. Outlook, page 25

Argos enlists Littlewoods

By Nigel Cope City Correspondent

ARGOS unveiled radical plans to modernise its business yesterday after admitting that it had become out of step with customers' needs.

The group announced a new retailing strategy and a bome shopping joint venture with Littlewoods as part of its fight against the hostide £1.6hn bid from Great Universal Stores.

It is to spend up to £5m on a modernising programme that will see its stores upgraded with better racking and improved window displays while its old fashioned catalogue will be made more modern and userfriendly. More higher-value products will be added to improve customer choice though the company said it would not compromise on its commitment to low prices.

Stuart Rose, who has only heen Argos chief executive for six weeks, admitted that Argos had to become a little more fashionable. "It has been one step behind customers in fashion rather than half a step orders, while Argos will provide ahead." The shops will start to its customer database. greeting cards, wrapping paper, and videos in an attempt to grah more revenue from existing

customers. Mr Rose pledged to improve the margins by 1 percentage point over two years by improving the sales mix, adding more own-lahel and exclusive ranges which carry higher mark-

ups and by increasing the level of direct sourcing.

The strategy statement came as the company released a trading update which showed that same-store sales had improved with a 4.8 per cent increase in the 12 weeks to 12 March. Margins were up by 0.5 percentage points in the same period.

The group's second defence document, which is expected to include the return of cash to shareholders, will be published next week if the GUS bid is cleared by the Office of Fair Trading. The Takeover Panel yesterday extended the offer timetable, saying Argos will now have two days following the OFT's decision to release its last

Argos's joint venture agreement with Littlewoods will see the pair launch a fashion home shopping catalogue aimed at Argos customers. The 700-page catalogue will consist of branded clothing and be tested later this year. A national rollout is planned for autumn 1999, Littlewoods will produce the catalogue and handle the

were described as "minimal" by Mr Rose, who said expected losses in the first year could be around £2m each. The company will use the database to target higher-spending customers. A home delivery service will be rolled out nationally next year at a cost of £15m.

Outlook, page 25

Brussels insists Britain Cheap holidays for Thomson investors *must rejoin the ERM

By Katherine Butler

BRITAIN would have to rejoin the revamped exchange rate mechanism - which the pound crashed out of in September 1992 - if it wanted to abandon the pound and join the euro zone, the European Commission made clear yesterday.

But the Commission has left the door open to technical membership for a period shorter than the two years mentioned in the Maastricht Treaty, saying that exchange rate stability is the key. A revamped ERM is set to be launched

In its definitive recommendation on economic convergence of the countries fit to join EMU in the 1999 first wave, the Commission ruled out Sweden -which has never been a member of the ERM and which has experienced major fluctuations economic forecasts also show against the ERM currencies.

ommended that Italy and Finland, who only joined the ERM in November 1996 and October 1996 respectively, and therefore do not strictly fulfil the membership criterion, should be

shadowed the euro after its launch and to find a way of demonstrating stability without heing in the new currency grid. The Treasury repeated yesterday the insistence of Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, that Britain has "no intention" of rejoining the ERM.

position of the UK and its performance on inflation would qualify Britain for membership.

The Commission's spring Government borrowing as a But the Commission recpercentage of gross domestic product is expected to fall this

year to 0.6 per cent, down from 1.9 per cent in 1997, due to the windfall tax on the profits of privatised utilities. The Commission forecasts the deficit will fall again in 1999 to 0.3 per cent. It warns Clearly the onus would still be on Britain to ensure sterling that because the bulk of the revenue from the windfall tax will

not be spent until after 1998, the positive effect on the deficit will begin to unwind as revenues are Britain is one of only four members whose debt is below the 60 per cent of GDP target set by the treaty. The spring forecasts put the British debt to GDP ra-That aside, the budgetary

> to 50.9 per cent next year. Outlook, page 25

tio at 52.3 per cent this year falling

By Andrew Yates

THOMSON Travel Group, the UK's largest tour operator, is planning to offer 10 per cent discounts on all its holidays for private investors who buy shares in its forthcoming £1.5bn flotation.

Customers will be able to save almost £50 on the price of an average holiday while a family jetting off to the sun stands to save £120 on a typical hreak.

Investors who apply for at east £500 worth of shares will

be allowed to join the Thomson Founders' Club. As well as cheap holidays they will quality for a range of perks including seat upgrades on the group's Britannia airline, the chance to have the best hotel rooms on offer, additional luggage allowances and newsletters with special holiday offers.

The 10 per cent discount will apply to all holidays advertised in the Thomson and Skytours hrochures as well as getaways with Holiday Cottages. A member of the cluh will be able to

apply for as many holidays as he to £1.5bn, although strong inor she wants providing they travel with the party.

Thomson Travel plans to send details of the perks to more than a million of its customers through the post. It is also launching a national TV advertising campaign to entice the public to subscribe for

The group will issue a flotation prospectus in late April and will join the stock market in early May. Analysts estimate that the group could be valued at up ciety and The Share Centre.

terest from private investors and financial institutions could push that price tag even higher.

The shares will unt be offered at a discount to employees, although they are likely to be given preferential treatment when the shares are allocated. Private investors can regis-

ter for the share offer by contacting share shops including Barclays Stockbrokers, Hargreaves Lansdown, NatWest Brokers, Skipton Building So-

About 10 per cent of the shares in the flotation are likely to be allocated to private inestors. Another 20 per cent are likely to be taken by the founding Thomson family with the rest awarded to financial institutions.

Thomson's flutation comes as Lunn Poly, its travel agency. continues its battle against the Government over the imposition of a 17.5 per cent insurance: premium tax. Thomson is awaiting the outcome of a judicial re-

City watchdog plans much harsher penalties

THE WATCHDOG responsible for City of London traders troduce far stiffer penalties for breaches of its rules. If the proposals from the Securities

are accepted, penalties for firms compliance is good business" that fall foul of the regulator could increase fourfold.

Individuals who breach SFA rules could find themselves yesterday unveiled plans to in- with double the penalties they could expect in receive under the current regime.

and Futures Authority (SFA) to "foster the notion that good promptly informs the SFA, taken into consideration when

and is proposing that fines be a proposed course of remedial reduced, or even waived altogether, if firms have good compliance procedures and notify the SFA of any breaches.

The watchdog said: "If a firm with adequate controls discov-

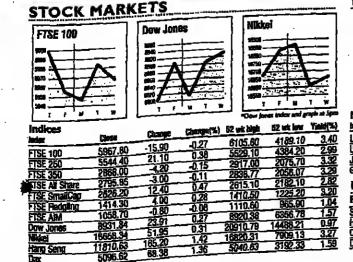
action - including compensation where necessary -- disciplinary action will be very much less likely."

The SFA proposals, released yesterday, listed additional fac-The SFA says also it wants ers an issue in a timely way and tors that it believes should be

giving the full facts together with setting fines. These include the time scale over which the breaches occurred, whether there was widespread wrongdoing throughout the firm and the means of the firm in overtion to pay fines.

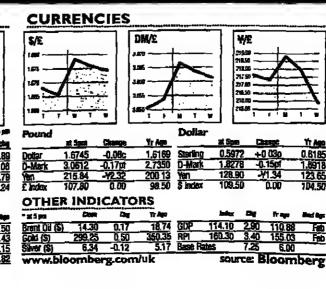
Firms have until 30 April to

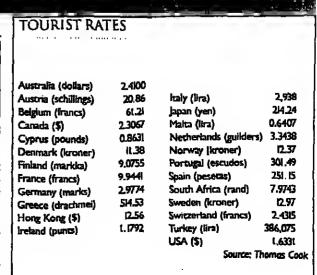




INTEREST RATES US long bond

MAIN PRICE CHANGES Trippi Chalif Loop Falls





whits at

Deep Pan Pizza chain to disappear

By Andrew Yates

DEEP PAN Pizza restaurants. best known for offering "all vou can eat" deals for hungry punters, are set to disappear from the high street.

The move cumes in response to a sharp fall in profits at the chain caused by the growing trend far customers to dine out nn mnre exotic and upmarket food.

City Centre Restaurants, which owns the troubled chain. over the next few years. has decided in scrap the Deep Pan Pizza name and create a new upmarket chain nf pizza restaurants.

It is also looking to sell some sites ur convert them in nther restaurant brands.

James Naylur, chief executive of City Centre, said yesterday: "The brand was popular, with fewer people the next 12 months. eating deep pan."

There are currently 89 around the UK.

City Centre plans in keep the 35 sites which are incated alnugside nut-of-town leisure ceotres. They will still sell pizzas but rename the restaurants and introduce higher class menus.

About 30 high street sites will he used to house City Centre's other restaurants such as Caffe Uno while the remaining restaurants will be

City Centre revealed it had years. received tentative offers for all its high street sites and would consider selling them if it re- continue growing very fast ... ceived an attractive rffer. "We driven by lifestyle changes. As could sell the restaurants if we get the right price, but it is very away from McDonald's and early days at the moment," said eating out in restaurants."

year. The group blames poor management, huge discounting and larger menus which added to costs, for the shortfail.

The result was an improvement in the chain's perfurmance but nut ennugh to justify its continued existence. The chain will be phased out

Despite the problems at Deep Pan, City Centre unveiled a 4 per cent rise in pretax profits in £17.5m for the year in December.

Mr Naylur said the group planned to opeo at least another 46 restaurants this year.

City Centre is planning an aggressive expansion of its becoming dated. Thin crust Caffe Uno Italian style pizzas are becoming more eateries, opening another 15 in

New chains such as Frankie & Benny's, based nn a New Deep Pan Pizza restaurants Ynrk in the 1950s theme, and Wnk Wok, which specialises in modern Asian food, are proving a success and will also be rolled out rapidly.

Last year's acquisition of Est Est Est, the North of England Italian chain, has exceeded expectations and another six restaurants are due to npen soon.

City Centre denied the restauraot market was hecoming overcrowded after an explosion in openings in recent

Mr Naylor said: "The eating out market is set to people age they are turning

City Centre's shares, which City Centre has already fell sharply after a recent profit had to install new management warnings prompted by Deep at Deep Pan Pizza after profits Pan's problems, recovered 6.5p from the chain fell £2m last to 118p yesterday.



The droop: At Bernard Matthews, profits are down by 24 per cent

Pound batters Matthews

By Kerry Benefield

TURKEY magnate Bernard Matthews was hit hard by the strength of the pound in 1997, as he watched profits at the company that bears his name fall 24 per cent.

The group, whose activities include the production and marketing of meat and fish products as well as insurance, posted profits before tax and exceptional items of £14.1m in the 52 weeks to 28 December, compared with £22.6m in 1996. Earnings per share fell to 6.06p from 12.69p, while

the final dividend increased to 2.5p from 2.4p.
"It is all to do with the strength of sterling," David Joll, managing director, said yesterday. Were it not for the currency rates, our profits would have topped our record year in 1996. It's entirely to do with sterling."

Mr Matthews, who chairs the group, said sales of overseas subsidiaries, up 14 per cent, and a more extensive advertising campaign, and further broadening of the business base through the reductions in operating costs.

development of the brand name had buoyed the

*UK sales of branded added-value products were 8 per cent higher than in the previous year and produced another record profit," he said. "Our trading conditions in Hungary imroved in the second half of 1997 through a combination of lower raw material costs and the

opening of our new feed mill. Our German and New Zealand operations show promise for the future but the French market remains difficult," Mr Joll said the drop in feed prices augured well for 1998. "The price of wheat is extremely

important to us and the price is down significantly now. It's a little early to point to numbers, but the year-to-year sales are up in the first 12 weeks." Mr Joll said the company expects to regain lost ground through new product faunches, a

House of Fraser shares leap as profits double

SHARES in House of Fraser re- 1994 at 180p a share. Profits be- cause of the reassurance on curwhich has 51 stores, reported held at 5.5p a share. pre-tax profits after exceptional within analysts' expectations.

Its shares surged by almost 170p after a poor performance week fell to 150p, their lowest level for over a year.

The retailer is in the middle of a big recovery programme to improve profits after struggling since the Fayed brothers, owners of Harrods, floated it in-

bounded yesterday after the fore exceptionals were £29m department store group re- against a loss last time of porting a near doubling of £38.4m. Sales rose to £812m profits last year. The retailer, from £781.4m. The dividend was

Brian McGowan, chairman items of £28.3m in the 53 weeks said the company had been to 31 January, up 91 per cent successful in meeting its targets progress in the current year.

10 per cent, closing up 14.5p at maintaining good sales growth in the current year and of so far this year. The shares last achieving further increases in gross margin and gross profit," Mr McGowan said.

in the share price was more of The shares have bounced be-

from the previous year and and expected to continue this year. We are very confident We are confident both of

> Retail analysts said the leap a reaction to positive comments by the group on current trading. move into the next century.

rent trading," said Nick Bubb, retail analyst at SG Securities. John Coleman, chief execu-

tive, said the group's performance showed the recovery was on track: "I would like to point out that our womenswear sales were up 20 per cent last about how our fashion wear is trading right now." Hnuse nf Fraser's own-bought fashions, as opposed to branded conces-

sions, were up 11.6 per cent. Mr Coleman said the renpening in late April of the revamped Barkers department store in Kensington, London would usher in House of Praser's

Tarmac 'nervous' on transport

TARMAC, the heavy building materials and constructing group, yesterday voiced "nervousness" over the Government's transport policy.

Neville Simms, Tarmac chief executive, said the group had moved increasingly towards building up a road and rail maintenance business to cope with the decline in new road building and the increasing emphasis on public transport:

a key factor in profitability growth in future. It should account for £500m of our timover this year after around £400m in 1997. It's a higher margin business and lower risk," he said

Mr Simms said he was optimistic for 1998 and beyond, despite what he called "a hitle bit of nervousness" about the Government's roads policy. His comments came as

Tarmac announced highermore growth on the back of buoyant markets in Britain, the US and cootinental Europe. "1997 was a year of consid-

erable further progress. This market expectations by around



"Maintenance work will be Neville Simms: Optimistic

year has started well and I am confident that, whatever uncertainties lie ahead for the British economy, our strategic direction and clear objectives will deliver an improved performance in 1998 and beyond," he said.

Tarmac, one of the leading road developers and now building a rail maintenance business. raised pre-tax profit by 59 per than-expected annual results cent last year to £120,2m on a and said it was on course for 4 per cent rise in sales to £2.77bn. The total dividend was raised to 5.65p from 5.5p previously.

The profit figure outstripped

marginally higher than forecast. "January and Rebruary have been relatively kind months. More importantly, we've started to put price increases into the market and we hope they will stick this year as they have done pretty well for the last four or five years," Mr Simms said.

£4m while the dividend was

He said the construction market cootinued to improve while medium-term growth prospects for the US were favourable and steady growth was likely to continue in contioental Europe. He attributed Tarmac's

profit rise to improved operating performance, cost-cutting and the industry's rationalisation.

The company was likely to take oo more workers this year in what he called a benign, sustainable market.

Tarmac said its heavy huilding materials division, which accounts for slightly more than 40 per cent of group turnover, saw operating profit rise almost 20 per cent to £141.6m oo a 6 per cent sales rise to £1.19bn.

Recommended final cash offer

Albert E Sharp on behalf of Skuyfeat Limited **UK Safety plc**

Albert E Sharp ("AES") announces on behalf of Skuyfeat Limited ("Skuyfeat") that by means of a formal offer document dated and posted on 25 March 1998 ("the Offer Document") and by means of this advertisement, AES is making a recommended offer ("the Offer") on behalf of Skuyfeat to acquire all of the issued and to be issued share capital of UK Safety pic ("UK Safety"). Stayfeat has acquired from the Schroder UK Buy Out Fund and the Schroder UK Buy Out Fund and the Schroder UK Buy Out Fund R their entire holdings of 7,542,619 and 3,069,061 UK Safety shares representing, in aggregate, approximately 26.28 per cent of UK Safety's issued share capital. In addition Stayfeat has received from John Newman (UK Safety's Chief Executive) and Paul Cockburn (UK Safety's Production Director) irrevocable undertailtings to accept the Offer in respect of their respective holdings of 101,547 and 4,834 UK Safety shares representing approximately 0.26 per cent in aggregate of the existing issued share capital of UK Safety.

Terms defined in the Offer Document have the same meaning in this advertisement. Subject to the Offer becoming or being declared wholly unconditional, a UK Safety shareholder who validly accepts the Offer will receive 2.5 pence in cash for each UK Safety share.

The Offer, which is final and will not be increased, values all of the issued and to be issued share capital of UK Safety

at approximately £1.01 million. The Offer represents a discount of approximately 66.7 per cent to the closing middle market price of 7.5 pence per UK Safety share on 19 March 1998, the last business day prior to the date of the The full terms and conditions of the Offer (including details of how the Offer may be accepted) are set out in the Offer

Document and the Form of Acceptant UK Safety shareholders who accept the Offer may rely only on the Offer Document and the Form of Acceptance for

all the terms and conditions of the Offer. The Offer is by means of this advertisement being extended to all persons to whom the Offer Document may not be

despetched who hold or who are entitled to have allotted or issued to them UK Safety shares. Such persons are enformed that copies of the Offer Document and Form of Acceptance are available for collection (during normal business hours) from Albert E Sharp of Pinners Hall, 105-108 Old Broad Street, Loodon EC2N IET

The Offer, which has been made by means of the Offer Document and this advertisement will be open for acuntil 3.00pm on 15 April 1998 (or such later time(s) and/or date(s) as Skuyfeet may, subject to the rules of the City Code, decide).

The Independent Directors of UK Safety, who have been to advised by KPMG Corporate Finance, consider that the Offer is in the best interests of UK Safety shareholders and unantmounty recommend all UK Safety shareholders to accept the Offer as they intend to do in respect of their own beneficial holdings of 166,000 UK Safety shares representing approximately 0.4 per cent of UK Safety's issued share capital. In providing advice to the independent Directors, KPMG Corporate Finance has taken into account the independent Directors' commercial assessments. John Newman and Paul Coddown, together with Ken Elavis (UK Safety's Marketing Director) have agreed, subject to the Offer being declared unconditional, to substribe for equity in Skuyfeat and have not, therefore, participated in the

The Offer is not being made, directly or indirectly, in or into the United States, Carada, Associate or Japan or by use of the mails or by any means or instrumentality of interstate or foreign commerce of, or of any facilities of a national securities exchange of, the United States, Carada, Australia or Japan.

This advanteement is not being published in or otherwise distributed or sent in or into the United States, Canada, Australia or japan and persons reading this advertisement (including custodiers, trustees and nominees) must not distribute or send this advertisement, the Offer Document or the Form of Acceptance (nor any related document(s)) in or into or from the United States, Canada, Australia or Japan nor use the mails or any means or instrumentality of interstate or foreign commerce of, or any facilities of a national securities exchange of, the United States, Canada. Australia or Japan for any purpose, directly or indirectly, in connection with the Offer and doing so will invalidate any related purported acceptances of the Offer.

This advertisement is published on behalf of Skuylest by AES and has been approved by AES solely for the purpose of section 57 of the Financial Services Act 1986.

AES, which is regulated by the Securities and Futures Authority is acting exclusively for Sknyfest in connection with the Offer and no-one else and will not be responsible to anyone other than Skuyless for providing the protections afforded to customers of AES nor for providing advice in relation to the Offer.

KPMG Corporate Finance, a division of KPMG, which is authorised to carry out investment business by the institute of Charpered Accountants in England and Wales, is acting exclusively for UK Safety in connection with the Offer and no-one else and will not be responsible to anyone other than UK Safety for providing the protections afforded to customers of KPMG Corporate Risance nor for providing advice in relation to the Offen

The director of Skuyfest and the directors and Alchemy Partners (Guerraey) (which manages the Alchemy Investment Plan, which is investing in Stuyfeat) accept responsibility for the information contained in this advertisement other than the recommendation of the independent Directors. The independent Directors accept responsibility for their recommendation in this advertisement. To the best of the knowledge and belief of these responsibility for their recommendation in this section state that such is the case) the information contained in this re person privileg cares an executate responsible is in accordance with the facts and does not omit anything likely to affect the import of such information.

THE INVESTMENT COLUMN

Barratt: At a glance

EDITED BY ANDREW YATES

Barratt builds on housing recovery

BARRATT's results wouldn't be the same without an outburst against the Government Now Sir Lawrie Barratt, the old war horse of the housing industry, has stepped down, it was left up to Frank Eaton, his successor, to have a rant at how house buyers are being victimised by the powers that be. But Barratt has little to complain

The bousing market is going great guns at the moment. Mortgage interest tax relief may go and interest rates will probably rise further. However, houses are more affordable now than they have been for some time. The Government's prudent stance on the economy have seen long-term interest rates fall to new lows, stimulating cut-price deals from lenders.

When Sir Lawrie stepped down last time the company promptly went downhill as the recession brought the industry to its knees. But history is unlikely to repeat itself.

The industry is still cyclical and will struggle to grow at the cracking pace it has set over the last few years. That said, as long as the economy does not get out of control, the bousing market should continue to grow at, say, 3 to 4

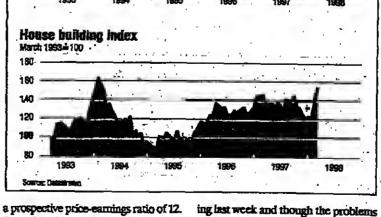
Barratt has capitalised on the good times by expanding its presence in the South-east, which has shown by far the fastest growth in the UK. Just as importantly, it has been able to keep costs under control.

months but Barratt has proved better good value. than most at keeping a hid on expenses. That helped profits for the six months to December rise 38 per cent to £34.1m.

Barrett remains one of the best run businesses in the sector. Barratt is on could be over track to build 8,000 homes in this financial year and maintain its doubledigit volume growth. That means, IS IT time to call the turn on sports rethe next few years.

comeback over the last few months. The shares rose another 13p to 319p yesterday. Analysis forecast full-year profits of £90m, putting the shares on World Cup. Nike issued a profits warm particular fashion.

Market value: £739m, share price 319p (+13p) half year to 31 Dec-Five-year record 1994 1995 1996 1997 Turnover (Ebr) 579 634 714 311 388 Pro-tax profits (Em) 47.1 52.1 70.1 24.8 34.1 Earnings per share (o) 15.2 17.8 19.8 7.0 Dividends per share (p) 3.6 3.3 Share price 300



are mostly in the US and the Far East,

over-supply is causing in price cutting

everywhere. This is bound to have a

knock-on effect on UK retailers, who are

pawns in a much more powerful game.

faltered. Sports Division, the privately

owned retailer, is delaying its decision

on the timing of its float and share prices

have been falling. JJB shares have lost

18 per cent of their value since their

peak just three weeks ago. On top of

Demand here does seem to have

Wage demands and land costs Some housing stocks are beginning to have ballooned over the last 12 look a bit pricey but Barratt remains

Sportswear boom

barring the sort of crash last seen in the tailers? Companies like IJB Sports and all this, the former merchandise diearly 1990's, Barratt looks set fair for Blacks Leisure have enjoyed exponent rector of Manchester United has said tial growth on the back of the popularity the replica sales boom may be over, Barratt's shares and the house of replica football shirts and the power building sector have both staged a of brands like Nike, Reebok and Adidas.

But clouds have begun to gather on ket is clearly more difficult. The

trade on a forward rating of 20 times. This is far higher than Blacks Leisure, which has a wider spread of interests, and JD Sports, which has been affected by profits warnings. The World Cup may provide a boost but, with higher interest rates affecting consumer spending and the threat of a shift in fashions, investors should proceed with caution. There is a case for locking in profits.

The next news will be JJB Sports' full-

year results next month. With analysts

expecting profits of £34.5m the shares

Marketing boost for Abbott Mead

ADVERTISING is a noturiously cyclical business. When economic conditions deteriorate, a finance director's knife becomes magnetically attracted to the advertising budget.

In the last six years, advertisers have

seen their business grow without so much as a hlip. But it debatable if the boom times can last much innger. Unlike its rivals in Maddison Avenue, Abbott Mead Vickers lacks the global reach which could protect it from

a downturn in the domestic economy. So, it has switched to other devices. In the three years since 1994, the advertiser has, in effect, switched from being an advertising company that does marketing to being a marketing company that does advertising. Whereas marketing brought in just 39 per cent nf profits in 1994, it now brings in 59

per cent. Because marketing -- such as PR, design, literature and packaging - is less cyclical than advertising and less likely to be hrutalised by recession, this should reassure shareholders.

Abbott Mead Vickers has maintained its position as the largest advertising company in the UK, and is likely to stay that way for a while. New business went well in 1997, with the company winning contracts with Aer Lingus, Volvo and BT Business Communications.

Earnings in the year to December 1997 were ahead of expectations at 17.3p a share and Panmure Gordno With the huge store opening proforecasts 19p a share for this year. The grammes being undertaken, the marshares yesterday rose from 386p to But clouds have begun to gamer on the horizon just as things should have question now is whether this is just a puts in on a multiple of 21- high but much lower than many of its peers.

The state of the s

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Chiam Mar

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OUTLOOK

ON THE PANTOMIME OF QUALIFYING FOR EMU, PROPOSALS TO REGULATE UTILITIES. THE DILEMMA OVER RAILTRACK AND ARGOS'S MAKEOVER

Erm, here's a piece of Euro-fudge to chew on

BACK in the 1970s Britain was the bas- uisite two year period whereas the Swedes. system may be, the best way to improve the regulatory screw further and the exket case of Europe. Rigid labour markets. an overweening state sector, high inflation and a tax and spend mentality. You name it, we had it. Then Mrs Thatcher came along and the painful process of readjustment began. Just as the experiment was about to succeed she was lured into the Exchange Rate Mechanism. Two years later Thatchernomics was dead and the country was in the grip of a deep recession. The climb back to recovery only began the day Norman Lamont sang in his path, Britain left the ERM and the pound underwent

a competitive devaluation. It is easy to see why the present government is wary of re-entering a fixed exchange rate system. The 1990s-style Britain could walk into Economic and Monetary Union tomorrow but it will not, indeed cannot, because the accompanying reduction in interest rates would blow the fid off the economy.

Eleven other European countries have no such quaims, however. Yesterday they were duly declared fit and proper members of the single currency after a classic piece of Euro-fudge.

The architect of the project, the European Commission, has chosen to ignore the fact that two of the founder members, Italy and Belgium, have debt to GDP ratios that make the eyes water. They are double those permitted under the Maastricht convergence criteria. That spells pain to the people if they are to keep within the limits of deficit to GDP at the same time as servicing their debt.

Likewise plucky little Finland is being welcomed into the euro-fold even though it has not been in the ERM for the req-

who do not want to be in the first wave anyway, are not being admitted because they are not ERM members at all.

عبكنا من الاجل

Gordon Brown reasserts that Britain has no intention of re-joining the ERM. Brussels meanwhile talks tough about membership being a necessary pre-cursor to joining the single currency.

But as yesterday's pantomime shows, qualifying for entry depends more on having the political will than meeting the convergence criteria. If and when Britain chooses to sign up, some other fudge will be found to smooth the way. The question is whether, by then, it will want to join the sort of club that would have it as a member.

A mechanism for future errors

AFTER nine months and as many draft versions, the Government's proposals for regulating the privatised utilities have finally emerged blinking into the daylight. There are precious few surprises. Nevertheless, the confirmation that Margaret Beckett is not about to tear up the system of incentive regulation which governs the water, gas, electricity and telecoms industries put a spring into share prices yesterday.

As in so many other areas of policy, the realities of office make h hard to deliver on the rhetoric while in opposition. Old Labour would dearly have loved to settle some scores with the privatised utility bosses by squeezing them until the pips squeaked. New Labour, the natural party of business, accepts that imperfect as the

the consumer's lot is to give the utilities an incentive to make profits.

The Treasury's paw marks can be seen all over the Green Paper, particularly in the decision to leave the RP1-X formula as the basis for price regulation. But there is nne weasel phrase that will need careful monitoring and that is the proposed "error correction mechanism". The purpose of this, we are promised, is to claw back profits only where the wool has been pulled over the regulator's eyes or where

But given the increased degree of political control over regulation which is evident elsewhere in the Green Paper, regulators may be tempted to reach for the mechanism too often.

rplus profits are made unexpectedly.

The strings on Railtrack's deal

THE TWO LINES to plot on any graph of Railtrack's performance since privatisation are improvements in the rail network against share price movement. You do not need a trainspotter's eye for detail to see that the latter has outstripped the former by a country mile.

Shareholders have enjoyed a rollicking good ride unlike passengers as the figures for punctuality, reliability and quality of service are starting to show.

Now Railtrack is offering to make amends by increasing its 10-year rolling investment programme to £17bn and straighten out the bottlenecks. But the offer comes with strings attached - turn tra spending will be in jeopardy. The timing is no coincidence since the Rail Regulator, John Swift, wants to make life tougher for Railtrack when access charges - the amount the train operating companies pay to use the network - are re-

viewed for the five-year period up to 2006. Railtrack has another cavil - that the current formula does not allow it to reap benefits from any growth in the market, the Conservatives having privatised the railways on the assumption that they would then stagnate. Rather than doing ad hoe deals, such as the revenue sharing deal struck with Virgin Trains on the West Coast Mainline, Railtrack wants some mechanism built into the regime to reflect what it says could be 30 per cent passenger growth and a trebling of freight traffic over the next decade.

All in all, the regulator and his political master John Prescott are in an awkward spot. Their hearts may tell them to punish Railtrack's shareholders for having enjoyed a free ride but their heads will conclude this is not the best means of achieving a modern railway. The clincher may be Mr Prescott's dependence on Railtrack to rescue the Channel Tunnel Rail Link and modernise the Tube. Nn wonder Sir Bob Horton's beaming features are even more noticeable on the footplate than usual.

First taste of Argos's defence

FOR A retailer that never seems to have moved out of the 1970s, Argos has suddenly come over all designer trendy.

instead of its usual grey presentations the company yesterday hired the London Weekend Television studios in regale audiences with its new retail strategy. There were lots of yellow kettles and bright red vacuum cleaners everywhere and, up on the podium, new chief execntive Stuart Rose was reading from his antocue with all the aplomb of a seasoned Oscars presenter. Amazing what a hos-

tile bid can do. But strip away the gloss and the key issue is how much Argos' new "vision" will add to the share price compared to the cash offer Great Universal Stores has tabled.

Certainly, much of yesterday's thinking was common sense and is what GUS would probably do given the chance. Spending £5m on giving the stores and cutalogue a makeover to make them more user-friendly seems sensible. Adding a wider range of goods - including more at higher price points - increases consumer choice. And selling additional lines such as greeting cards, wrapping paper and videos in the stores could add extra

The this is surely just the appetiser. The real meat will come next week with the defence document. Mr Rose has pledged to increase margins by a full percentage point over two years. On some calculations this could add over 70p to the share price. The promise of a special dividend next week could turn what has been a dull bid intn a decent fight. But Argos is still relying on its shareholders making a leap of faith. And it will take more than a slick presentation to get them on hoard,

Barratt hits at housing policy

FRANK EATON, chairman of Barratt, one of the largest housebuilders in the country. yesterday launched a stinging attack on the Labour Government. He accused Tony Blair, the Prime Minister, of ignoring the needs of first-time buyers by continuing to reduce the level of Miras, the tax relief on mortgage payments.

Mr Eaton said yesterday: The Government is discriminating against the first-time huyer. If this continues it will force more young people into renting instead of home

Barratt is calling on Labour to provide more subsidies for first-time buyers. It believes the five interest-rate hikes since Labour came to power will bave a particularly damaging effect on less affluent parts of the country.

The company also criticised the current planning system, which it believes is in desperate need of an overhaul Planning permission can be delayed for at least 12 months in some cases, "The Government has failed to tackle the planning system, which has broken down," Mr Eaton said. A shortage of land has seen prices soar by a quarter over the last 12 months.

ratt warned that the housing market was likely to slow this year after a rapid period of growth. Barratt said current house sales were the highest the group had seen for more than a decade, prompting comparisons with the housing boom of

The strong housing market helped the group achieve a 38 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £34.1m last year, thanks to a 10 per cent rise in prices in the South-east, where Barratt has chosen to concentrate its new investment.

However, Mr Eaton warned

The outburst came as Bar- don and the Home Counties would come off the boil this year, rising by around only 3 or 4 per cent, Barratt also believes that the strong growth in the Southeast is unlikely to ripple out to the rest of the country. According to the group, the housing market in the North of England is likely to remain relatively depressed with prices edging up by 2 or 3 per cent this year.

Barratt now builds 45 per cent of its houses in the South of England and that proportion will continue to rise.

The group plans to sell 8,000 houses this year and is on track to meet its target of 11,000 sales the price of new homes in Lon- in the year 2000. Building costs

rose 2 per cent last year as wage pressures from contractors subsided. Barratt forecasts a 3 per cent rise this year.

Mr Eaton yesterday moved to strengthen the group's board by appointing David Pretty. the ehairman of Barratt's Southern Region, as managing director. The management shake-up comes after Sir Lawrie Barratt, the group's former chairman, took a back seat role at the group by retiring as chairman last November

to become life president. The results beat analysts' expectations, causing Barratt's shares to rise 13p to 319p. Investment column, page 24 | revealed Mr Harrison received a

Former BZW chief earned £5m for 13 months' work

By Lea Paterson

THE FORMER head of investment banking at Barelays benefited from a package worth almost £1.5m last year. taking his total benefits for 13 months work at the bank to more than £5m.

The 1997 package made Bill Harrison - formerly chief executive of BZW, Barclays' investment banking arm - Barclays' highest paid director for the second year in a row...

Barclays' annual report, posted to shareholders vesterday.

basic salary of £250,000 in 1997 as well as a payment of £946,000 largely relating to his departure from the bank last October. Barclays also contributed £275,000 to Mr Harrison's pension.

Next week, the former BZW chief will also be able to exercise 132,304 share options granted to him in 1996. At current market prices, Mr Harrison's options are worth around £i.lm.

Mr Harrison - who joined the bank in September 1996 resigned his post just 13 months later after the Barclays board decided to put BZW's equity term incentive scheme.

and corporate finance businesses up for sale. In 1996, the former BZW

chief received a package worth almost £3m. Martin Taylor, Barclays' chief

executive, received £738,000 in salaries and bonuses last year, a fall of 10 per cent. Mr Taylor was provisionally awarded £238,000 of shares under the bank's "executive share award scheme" this is a deferred award which can he partially collected in 2001. He also has been provisionally awarded 35,000 share options under the bank's longer-

Barings shake-up may hit 200 jobs

By Lea Paterson

ING Barings is to close its emerging markets equity derivatives division. The division employs around 200 people, most TNDENTS of whom are based in London.

ING - the Dutch bank which rescued Barings after the Nick out of investment banking al-Leeson scandal - said yesterday that not all 200 equity derivatives staff would lose their jobs. The bank declined to give further details of the number of the jobs at risk, although a source said "the majority" of the employees would probably be let go over the coming months.

The decision to close the emerging markets equity derivatives division follows a three-month strategic review. according to a memorandum distributed to staff on Tuesday.

ING Barings is not withdrawing completely from the equity derivatives business - it will continue to run an operation out of Amsterdam.

In the staff memo, Arjun Mathrani, ING Barings' chief executive, tried to reassure staff that the group was committed to corporate and investment banking, saying recent con-cerns had been "unfounded".

It had been rumoured ING Barings was considering pulling together, and tension within the bank was heightened after cuts in the bank's Latin American and Asian divisions last month.

The latest cuts reflects the group's decision to focus on Western Europe and the US. ING Barings is to restructure its business into three divisions: equities/investment banking, treasury; and emerging markets, high-yield debt and derivatives. Jeremy Palmer will head up

the equities/investment banking division. Richie Prager and Jose Berenguer will be coheads of emerging markets, high-yield debt and derivatives and Ted de Vries will head up the treasury division.

Trade unions attack Midshires decision to reject RBS bid

TRADE UNIONS yesterday urged Birmingham Midshires to rethink its decision to reject Royal Bank of Scotland's bid of between £605m and £630m. The board of Midshires said on Tuesday it could not recommend the bid and urged Royal Bank to release it from an exclusivity agreement that stops it talking to other bidders. Halifax has offered £780m, giving members an extra £150 each in windfall payments. Unlike Royal Bank, which guarantees that jobs and branches will be kept for three years, Halifax has made no such pledges. Rob MacGregor, assistant secretary of Bifu, the finance union, said: "Jobs and services must be the central issue - not the size of payout to members. It's important that Birmingham Midshires thinks again."

Ofgas backs doorstep selling

PEOPLE who change their gas supplier find doorstep selling "useful and informative", Ofgas, the gas industry regulator, said. Ofgas said a Mori survey of householders in phase 2b of gas competition (Kent, East and West Sussex) found that 83 per cent of those who had switched to a new supplier had been contacted on the doorstep. The survey found price was the main reason for switching.

Rexam delays payout

REXAM, the packaging products group, has delayed paying a final dividend to shareholders for another 12 months in order to get round the abolition of advance corporation tax (ACT) in April 1999. Rexam has a surplus ACT on its balance sheet of £23m which it is "anxious to utilise" before ACT ends. It proposes deferring the final 1997 dividend until next April and enhancing it by 8.7 per cent to 6.5p for late payment.

Vaux offers £20m for Manor

VAUX Group, the regional brewer and hotelier, has made a recommended offer to huy Manor Hotels for a total of £20m, inchiding £3m of debt and net current liabilities. Manor owns three hotels with 267 hedrooms, in Ipswich, Norwich and Old Harlow. Manor's turnover in the year to 31 December was around £9m.

Sears forms joint venture

SEARS Financial Services, the store card unit of retail group Sears, has formed a joint venture company with Equifax, the US transactions processing company, to develop credit card and store card processing services in the UK. The joint venture will be 51 per cent owned by Equifax and 49 per cent by Sears Financial Services, known as SearsCard. It will use SearsCard's established business base to offer processing services to third parties in the UK.

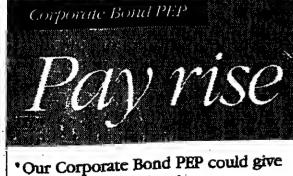
Go-ahead for Bass pub sale

MARGARET BECKETT, the President of the Board of Trade, has decided not to refer the proposed acquisition by Punch Taverns Investments of 1,428 pubs from Bass to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

Norweb develops DPL

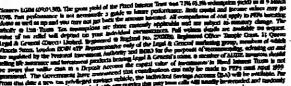
NORWEB DPL, the joint venture of Northern Telecom and United Utilities' unit Norweb Communications, has signed agreements with 10 international utilities which have committed themselves to proceeding with initial market deployment of Digital Power-Line technology. Norweb said the potential market for DPL is more than 35 million homes in seven European and Asian countries.





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Water stocks rise as DTI plans are revealed

MARKET REPORT



Breweries Pubs & Rest

PETER THAL LARSEN

the day Margaret Beckett, the joint venture with electronics decide where shares will head President of the Board of Trade, unveiled the Government's consultation paper on the future of utility regulation, stocks in the water sector soared. Not quite the consumer-friendly message that the spin doctors would have

wanted to send. were not directly linked. The gushing water shares seemed to stem from a presentation to analysis by Thames Water on Tuesday, which played down fears that the entire sector was beading for a big confrontation with the regulator over the next price re-

Thames Water put on 28p to 1,028p, while Anglian Water ended the day up 24p at 930p.

tricity wires to carry teletraffic. The shares gained 26p to 881p.

Meanwhile, other electricity and gas shares took the In fact, the two events wants to merge their respective regulators - Offer and Ofgas - in their stride. BG, the most heavily regulated arm of the former British Gas, shaded 0.25p to 317.75p.

Of the few remaining electricity firms Southern Electric dipped 5.5p to 538p while National Power finished down 14p at 571p and PowerGen даче пр 6р to 804р.

The Footsie continued to pause for breath after the

It was hardly the response the same factors, as well as the weeks, most equity strategists software group, which put on chief executive, Dick Brown, as Volkswagen confirmed it Government hoped for. On news that it had formalised its are advocating caution as they 15p to 1352.5p. Cable & Wireless dialled a

group Nortel to develop a next. Despite briefly edging technology which allows elec- above 6,000 in the morning, the Footsie ended the day phone calls and internet down 15.9 points at 5967.8. One notable casualty was

Carlton Communications. which dipped 25p to 460p on a downgrade by NntWest. news that the Government Analysts reckon first-half disposals targeted by C&W's figures from Michael Green's media group will suffer from lower profits in Broadcast Television and a downturn on the Vision and Sound Products

> The broker has also slashed its valuation of British Digital Broadcasting, Carlton's joint venture with Granada, to £200m from £920m on fears that programming costs will

A "buy" recommendation

The bubble of bid specu- had put in a bid. Catalogue re-

lation burst on hotels and bet-16.5p gain to 754p oo ru- ting group Ladbroke, which mours from France that it is tumbled 16p to 342p. Railabout to sell its stake in track's £17bn investment pro-French mobile operator gramme got the thumbs up Bouvenes, Selling the holding, from the market, with the which is estimated to be worth shares steaming ahead 43.5p about £600m, would go a long to 1,033.5p.

way to realising the fibn of Capital Radio tuned into an 18p gain to 700p ahead of City briefings next week. The company is preparing to update analysis on the performance of its restaurant division. The stock suffered Carlton last year after Capital bought the My Kinda Town restaurant chain, but has risen by 40 per cent so far this year. Savoy 'A' shares continued

their retreat as the chances of a bid for the hotel group

TAKING STOCK

lailer Argos fired another

salvo in its defence against a

570p a share hostile hid from

rival GUS, and was rewarded

with a 13p share price hike to

620p. GUS eased 2p to 777p.

set of final results from House

of Fraser boosted the shares

14.5p to 170p. Less than six

months ago, they peaked at

Shares in supermarket

group Somerfield dipped 2p to

343.5p as Dairy Farm, the

Hong-Kong based food re-

tailing outfit, confirmed that

it had placed its 11 per cent

stake, pocketing a cool \$279m

Upbeat figures from Bar-

ratt, the country's largest

(£167m) in the process.

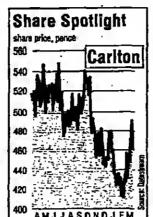
A stronger-than-expected

SHIRE Pharmaceuticals, marketing and licensing prescription drugs, lifted the recent gloom over the biotech sector with a 45.5p rise to 409p. Shire cleared a stock overhang by completing a global share offering which included listing on Nasdaq, the US market for hi-tech stocks. Shire offered 21 million shares at 343p, raising £72m. In the past year, the shares have scared by close to 90 per cent.

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OVER on AIM, botel minnow Peel Hotels added 7p to 97.5p. The project, which owns the Bull Hotel in Peterborough, has had a better reception than the last time Robert Peel ventured on to the stock market as chief executive of Thistle Hotels. There he was forced out by institutional



The luxury reporting results, added 13p to report r Hyder gained 15p to 977.5p headlong rush towards the from Dresdner Kleinwort and Severn Treat was 18p 6,000 mark that marked most Benson lifted shares in Boots of the first quarter. Having 14.5p to 932.5. An upgrade Multi-utility United Utiliseen their year-end forecasts from the same broker also ties gained ground on the for the index smashed within boosted Sage, the accounting 3.90m 3.73m 3.66m 3.40m 3.28m | Electricity | SM 08 & Parzy | SZ200 *3.00 2.1 7.4 454 | 37 55 central SM 09 75 34 National Gent | SM 00 4.50 4.5 12.4 464 | 37 605 National Gent | SM 00 4.50 4.5 12.4 465 | 37 00 50 National Gent | SM 00 4.50 4.5 12.4 47 603 | 39 255 Soot Nation | SM 00 4.50 1.4 15.3 603 | 47 75 Soot National SM 00 378 Southern | SM 00 4.50 1.4 17 603 | 47 75 Soot National Gent | SM 00 4.57 15 Soot National Gent Price Che Tile PRICede
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86.50 1.4 Kenneth Clarke, the former Chancellor of the Exchequer. shares his wealth of knowledge with as as he gives an indepth view on the economy and other financial matters > "Kenneth Chrise's Chronicle" is broadcast every Thursday at 13.19, 15.19, 17.19, 21.19 and 23.19 > The wise will listen > www.bloomberg.com/uk > BE IN THE KEOW 00 00 - 03 - 6872 00 00 - 03 - 6872 00 00 - 13 - 100 04 02 - 20 13 - 100 04 02 - 20 13 - 100 04 02 - 20 13 - 100 04 02 - 10 14 - 100 04 02 - 100 Prior Cig Tid Pris Cade

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27/BUSINESS

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DIANE COYLE

ON UK INDUSTRY AND THE REAL **EXCHANGE RATE**

THERE is doom and despondency anywhere you look in British manufacturing. The Ecyore tendency, never far from the surface, is wallowing in the gloom cast by the shadow of the strong pound. Some commentators have started to compare the current rise in sterling to the appreciation triggered by tight policy in the early 1980s.

In a note this week, Michael Saunders of Salomon Smith Barney, the investment bank, makes this link. He notes grimly that the manufacturers which til 1987. You could get five in 1981 compared with just over DM3 now. But British inflation overseas inflation in the intervening period that the real ex- manufacturing base. change rate is now approaching

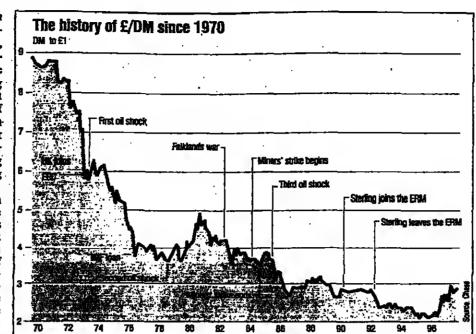
the same level as in 1982. an overvalued exchange rate to a report published earlier this were deployed by industry in 1991-1992, before the pound icy Institute, many British comwas driven out of the exchange panies opt to "pile 'em high and rate mechanism. There were sell 'em cheap". This can be a trebles all round among the captains and sub-lieutenants of indostry after "Black Wednesday", celebrating what in any other country would have been seeo as a national economic

manufacturing output has been flat, oot plummeting, and employment in industry has been, if anything, increasing. But businessmen say the exchange rate needs to fall back to something like DM2.60 - a 15 per cent drop from its current level - if catastrophe is to be averted. Inthe past three months the first actual evidence backing their claim has emerged, with falling export volumes and a widening trade deficit.

There is no question that an overvained exchange rate causes economic pain and is something that exporters might reasonably want to avoid. What is less reasonable, in the case of UK plc, is the fact that the complaints about an overvalued exchange rate recur every five years despite the fact that the pound has fallen sharply in value over the years. It has indeed fallen much less in real terms but this is in large part because the constant nominal depreciatioo is counteracted by British inflatioo remaining higher than overseas inflation. The inflation problem is itself fed by devaluation, which raises import prices and tends to feed into a vicious circle of higher

wage and price inflation. This is no way to run an survived the 1981-82 recession economy. Although they have were leaner and fitter, but there complained from time to time, were so few of them that output it is impossible to imagine Gerdid not regain its 1978 level un- man businesses whingeing constantly, British-style, because of German marks for your pound the strong mark. Quite the reverse: German businessmen have seen a strong mark as a oo one else, we should have has been so much higher than vote of confidence in the nothing to fear." strength of the economy and its

The difference in attitude can be explained by different The same arguments about business strategies. According week by the Employment Polcompletely rational choice for firms with a low-income cusindustrial relations or workplace structures. What's more, it is a deep-rooted strategy. In his marvellous history of the



Never Again, Peter Hennessy quotes Keynes's damning April 1945 assessment of British

"When it comes to making a shirt or steel billet ... we have to admit ourselves beateo by both the dear labour of America and the cheap labour of Asia or Europe ... If by some sad geographical slip the American air force (it is too late oow to hope for much from the enemy) were to destroy every factory on the North-east coast and in Lancashire; at an hour when the directors were sitting there and

What more telling comment

on the performance of British management over the past 50 years could there be than to note that "Europe" would now count with America as a dearlabour, high-value producer the great mass of British busioess made an effort to switch from the low-skill, low-value tomer base and unsatisfactory track that means exports have looser policy now would mean not come to the rescue once high-skill, high-value track that would make quality some de- sterling's appreciation lies in the fence against an exchange rate weaker state of the continental So far this time around post-War Labour government, appreciation. It is, sadly, still economies and the approach of

very true that the strong pound makes it much harder for British companies to compete in overseas markets because so cellor. many have only the one string to their compectiveness bow. They have reacted as they oormally do: first cut profit margins on exports: second, complain.

If it were easy to change strategies, more firms would have done so. Clearly, a web of economic, institutional and culniche. Successive governments have identified the problem without being able to solve it.

. Does that make it oecessary now for the Bank of England to rates will have to climb because alter course and cut interest rates? Absolutely not.

For one thing, the link bepoint in the past half century has A cut in interest rates, or an Besides, a lot of the reason for

economic and monetary unioo (EMU), both outside the control of the Bank or the Chan-

More important, surely, is it worth trying to avoid going through the same old loop once again? For the first time in a generation we have in place macro-economic policies that justify a strong and stable exchange rate. The pound will fall from its current giddy level tural factors has trapped Britain at some point this year bein its bottom of the market cause an emerging balance of payments deficit reflects the momentum of inflationary pressure in the economy. And by the end of the year German interest of the approaching start of the single curreocy.

But a nearly right level of intween the exchange rate and terest rates in the UK and a fiscal or monetary policy is tough Budget do mean this simply not as mechanical as cycle will be more muted than while the UK would not? At no most people seem to imagine. previous ones. Then it will be up to exporters themselves to easier Budget, might even have figure out how best to compete boosted the pound if the fi- in a stable world where a denancial markets concluded that preciation of the pound does to compete on price alone to the much tighter policy in future. every business cycle, only for its benefits to be whittled away within five years by the resulting inflatioo.

d.coyle@independent.co.uk

PEOPLE & **BUSINESS**

IOHN WILLCOCK



AS I forecast a couple of weeks ago, Joo Moynihan has split his role as chairman and chief executive of PA Consulting Group by appointing a new chief executive. The new man is Jeremy Asher, a 39-year-old Harvard

Mr Moynihan, you will recall, fell out with the majority owners of the PA Consulting Group, the Butten Trust, and "resigned".

He un-resigned before Christmas after the Trust agreed to share more of PA's income with current employees.

Io fact, Mr Moynihan continued to work for PA throughout the tiff.

PA had commissioned headhunters to find a successor for Mr Moynihan, and this money was unwasted when he-decided to stay, since they picked Mr Asher.

Mr Asher trained as a consultant but has speot most of his career in the oil industry. He recently helped buy and recommission Mobil's oil refinery in Wilhelmshaven, a vast facility with over 1,000 employees. Now he has disposed of his oil interests and will conceotrate on growing PA.

Despite Mr Asher's comparative youth it is unlikely that he will be overawed by Mr Moynihan, a man known for oot being a hlushing introvers.

Mr Asher says: "I have every confidence that Joo and I can take PA forward to achieve even greater heights in the consulting industry."

THE BID battle for Eastern Electricity between the two American rivals, PacifiCorp and Texas Utilities, may be of help to an environmental campaign to save the Norfolk Broads from a new infestation of electricity

That is the hope of "Operation ClearSky", a grass roots campaign launched eight months ago with the aim of preserving an area of outstanding natural beauty.

"Specifically, we want to convince the Eastern group to bury the electricity cables from Hellington to the south side of Hardley Floods in rural Norfolk, rather than replace

the existing pylons in this area with higher new pylons carrying twice the number of cables. as it has proposed," says the group.

Brian Clarke, a spokesman for the campaigners and a local resident, says they have been trying to convince Eastern to bury the cables for the last two-and-half years, ever since the company proposed an upgrade of services to the Suffolk coast.

"We accept that the lines have to be upgraded, but not their arguments about cost and impact on the area," says Mr Clarke, The new pylons will go through two areas designated as of special scientific interest, for example:

So now the locals have tried writing to the American companies to see what their attitude is. Both PacifiCorp and Texas Utilities publish huge lists of environmental pledges and achievements but neither has replied to Operation ClearSky yet.

The campaigners are urging Eastern shareholders to vote in favour of the hidder most likely to bury the cables but it's not clear which one this is. Over to you, guys.

WILLIAM Chamley, a corporate lawyer with Simmons & Simmons, proved recently that devotion to the deal is everything.

According to Legal Business magazine, Mr Chamley was injured in a car crash in January involving a borse box, but still managed to drag himself from a hospital bed to advise his client, Raines Dairy Foods.

Mr Chamley was found staggering out of his car after it had turned over at least twice. the mag says. He lost consciousness soon after and came to in hospital. Mr Chamley had to wear a peck brace after suffering multiple fractures of his vertebrae.

The problem was that Mr Chamley had promised Raines he would be there throughout negotiations for the sale of their business to Yoplait Dairy Crest for £66m.

The deal was due to close in 10 days' time. Against doctors' orders, the intrepid lawyer started working from his hospital bed, and the deal went through.

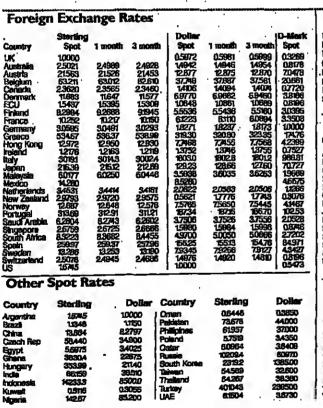
I suppose it gives a new, less pejorative, meaoing to the phrase "ambulance chaser".

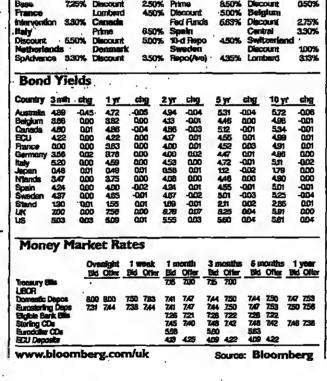
THE LATEST refugee from UBS only joioed the receotly merged investment bank last September, Bill Smith, global head of equities research at UBS, only left Barclays last autumn, and is returning to take eharge of its new savings and iovestmeot

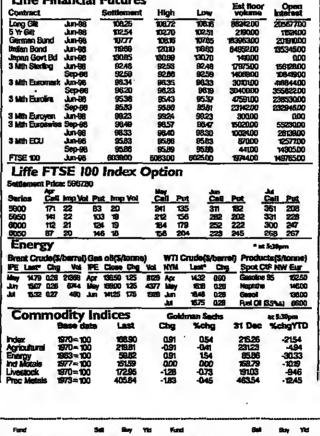
Mr Smith, an actuary with a maths degree, was until September deputy chairman of Barclays Asset Management, and before that deputy chief executive of BZW Equities.

Martin Taylor has reorganised Barclays so that from next Wednesday all retail operations will be part of a Retail Financial Services division, whose chief executive will be John Varley.

Mr Smith will report to Mr Varley wheo the former joins oo 6 April, and the savings grouping will include Barclays Life, Global Mutual Funds, Barclay livest and Barclays Property Investment.







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The heavyweight division doesn't seem to be going anywhere

observers of my vintage are fully in "Golden Era" of heavyweight boxing. heavyweight boxing. agreement is that the heavyweight division has not been in worse shape since Floyd Patterson held the undisputed championship.

If this seems a bit hard on Pattook it back from Ingemar Johansny Liston, he is stuck with the fact plenty of excitement, too. of being sent over 21 times in 13 champingship contests.

day but the comparison is not good performance. But the present ternational Boxing Federation) and between now and the time of his fragbetween now and the time of his fragparinus state of affairs entides us to
Lemox Lewis (World Boxing Counworth \$10m (£6.2m) to Foreman stiffest he has felt. "Yet," said Lewis.

| County Lewis (World Boxing Coun| Count

There are plenty of names to supterson who defeated Archie Moore Joe Frazier, George Foreman and this summer. Tyson, who is also infor the vacant title 42 years ago, and Larry Holmes. The supporting cast volved in an attempt to split from son before a one-round loss to Son- Earnie Shavers and others provided John Home and Rory Holloway, has

probably felt that older sportswrit-

ONE thing about boxing upon which followed, one referred to as the has gone into greater decline than

Mike Tyson remains the most port the belief that the division has marketable figure in the division but never been better represented than is under suspension by the Nevada it was in the '60s and '70s by such no- boxing authorities holding no guartable champions as Muhammad Ali, antee that his licence will be restored of Ken Norton, Jimmy Young, Don King and his co-managers, no more than a couple of contests In generational conflict it is left and may already be finished.

With no clear prospect of a uni-Because of disadvantages in ers are naturally perverse, and ad-fying contest between the leading ti- of their 50th birthdays. weight and punch resistance Patter- miration is wrung from us only by tle-holders. Evander Holyfield son would be no less vulnerable to- the supreme artistry of a particularly (World Boxing Association and Inile ascendancy. It is with the era that suppose that no sporting enterprise cil) there is now the squalid possi- against \$4m for Holmes. "If they



bility that Foreman and Holmes will be resurrected to meet in the year

Thought up as a pay-per-view event by Harold Smith, who served

are the best you have to fight whoever is thought to be the best which I thought, I can't go out like this." is why I wanted Holyfield. It didn't happen so I've just got to keep going until the situation changes."

Briggs got his chance through a Foreman last November. Briggs out in the opening round. time for embezzlement, it could be said that Foreman's jab was the

The lowest point in Lewis's ca- and made no great effort to shake come a belly laugh or nothing.

News like that adds to the frus- Call on a second-round knockout. States. "Unfortunately, none of tration felt by Lewis as he prepares "Looking back, that defeat turned those guys, Golota included, perto make a mandatory defence of the things around for me," he added. "It formed the roles I wanted from them WBC crown against Shannon Brig- got me together with Emanual Stew- or that the public wanted," he said. gs in Atlantic City on Saturday. ard and he's taken off the rough

controversial points decision over fered no opposition when knocked against the anonymous Vaughn Bean.

come up with the money I'll do it," reer came in September 1994 when up Akinwande he is still striving to the Holmes said this week.

Normalize the walk of the WBC title to Oliver Mc make a reputation in the United he lost the WBC title to Oliver Mc.

Trouble is that the heavyweight di-"Briggs definitely wasn't on my edges Losing to McCall took a great vision, ridden as ever with promoagenda," Lewis said. "To prove you weight off my shoulders. It gave me tional intrigue, doesn't appear to be a different attitude. I'd lost focus. But going anywhere. This week, Lewis versus Briggs, who may, or may not, Lewis's last three victories were be a credible contender. In June, over McCall, who didn't want to fight, Holyfield must face the discredited Henry Akinwande, disqualified for Akinwande in defence of the WBA holding, and Andrew Golota, who of-

History suggests that someone will Because Lewis did not take ex- come along. It had better happen



Venus Williams hits a forehand during her win over Italy's Silvia Farina in Key Biscayne. She now meets Martina Hingis in the semi-finals

gets," Mnntgomerie said. "I

don't know who classifies these

things, but if there were five ma-

jors this would be the fifth.

There are certain shots that

have to be hit on this course.

whose crass remarks about the

A suggestion from John Daly

and that plays into my hands."

Photograph: Jon Ferrery/Allsport

Tiger stands in way of Els

Golf By Andy Farrell

in Pente Vedra Beach, Florida

ERNIE ELS has the chance to replace Tiger Woods as the world No 1 by winning his secand tournament in a week at the US Players' Championship, which starts here today.

While Woods works on peaking far the US Masters in two weeks' time, Els showed he is already in prime form by winning the Bay Hill Invitational last week, outscoring Woods by 12 strokes over the final two munck

But Els insisted: "Tiger

up there and there are a lot of last four years. "This is as maother players right up there, but jor a golf tournament as it his record is awfully good. I think you can nnly judge how good a player he is by his performances in the big championships like the majors and this

The 25th Players tournament has a first prize of \$720,000 (£445,000) and one of for Woods and Fuzzy Zoeller, the best fields of the year. Its naly drawback is that the first "official" major of the year follows in a fortnight.

That is not a problem for Colin Montgomerie, who has a better record at the TPC at Sawgrass than at Augusta National. Monty was second to Fred should be regarded as the best Couples two years ago and has jor. If Fuzzy wants to get ready player in the world. I am right not been worse than 14th in the for a major with me that's fine."

Sharks seek better spirit

Basketball

By Richard Taylor

JUST three weeks after winning the Uni-ball League Trophy, Sheffield Sharks' coach, Chris Finch, has blamed a lack of team spirit for a run of three defeats in four games which has knocked them out of contention

Masters champion created a racial controversy that is still for the Budweiser League title. Sharks, whn entertain secrumbling, to play a practice ond-placed Newcastle Eagles round at Augusta got a cautious welcome from Woods. tomorrow, still have much to play for, though. Finch said: "It would be more of a public relations thing," Woods said. "We are trying to build up momentum for the play-offs. We "I will be getting ready for a maneed to come up with a better team spirit at the moment."

Tollett's crisis call

Rugby League

By Dave Hadfield

have their former player Tulsen ty confident." Tollett back on loan from Harlequins and in their side to meet Wigan in the Silk Cut Challenge Cup semi-final on Sunday.

Tollett, a Great Britain tourist in 1996, joined Quins last October, but could return to fill the problem stand-off position at Huddersfield.

Luke Goodwin is Cup-tied, Glen Air has not yet staked a convincing claim to the position and the Broncos used their back-row forward, Peter Gill, there against Hull KR in the last

Tony Rea, was in negotiations with Tollett and Harlequins last night and a Broncos THE London Broncos plan to spokesman said: "We are pret-

The Leeds prop Barrie Mo-Dermott is to appear at a disciplinary hearing tomorrow, hoping to avoid a suspension that would rule him out of the Super League season after being sent off in a friendly at York last Friday.

A delegation from the Australian Rugby League, including its former director-general, Ken Arthurson, is flying into Britain this weekend to fight through the courts for £400,000 it claims still to be owed from the World Cup here in 1995. ing, the story is a microcosm of next couple of days".

Henman's confident advance

Tennis

in Key Biscayne

A WEEK of outstanding tennis continued for Tim Henman yesterday when he advanced to the semi-finals of the Lipton Championships, having left two current Grand Slam champions in his wake. The confidence which has grown with every of misunderstandings. "That's match since Henman arrived in Florida was abundant as he swept past the Brazilian Gustavo "Guga" Kuerten, the French Open champion, 6-2, 6-4 in only 65 minutes.

Henman's win against Petr Korda, the Australian Open. champion and world No 2, in the previous round was im- the fence trying to get it back." pressive for the way the Briton unnerved his opponent, who was on the brink of rising to replace Peter Sampras as the No 31 since the turn of the year. world No 1. That victory was achieved after Henman had against Tarango in straight sets made a shaky start. Against since they started to play for Kuerten, his stylish serve-and money. volley style augmented by shrewd play from the back came Yevgeny Kafelnikov, the self-belief from the start on the

Centre Court. dropped a set so far, will play picking it up and holding it aloft either Marcelo Rios, the No 3 seed, who would overtake Sampras by winning the title, or Swe-

den's Thomas Enqvist. The volatile Jeff Tarango blames Andre Agassi for giving for the first time since Montrehim a bad name. "He told people that I made him cry," the Californian said on the eve of their quarter-final at the Lipton Championships here. "That was just to try to start a bad repu-

tation for me, I think." At the time of the incident, during a tournament in San Diego, Tarango was eight years old, Agassi seven. Tarango was the winner. "Tve never beaten Andre in the pros," he said. "The only time I beat him was the first time we played, in a tie-breaker. He got overruled on match point and be started crying.

"He told a different story before I turned pro in Livingston [in 1988]. He said that I made in the quarter-finals. him cry. I don't think he re- Pat Cash, the 1987 Wimblemembers it correctly, because I have plenty of witnesses that saw him get overruled on that match point."

Whatever the rights and

Tarango's stormy career. The 29-year-old's chief claim to fame was his disqualification at Wimbledon after walking out of a match following a row with the French umpire Bruno Rebeuh, who was slapped by Tarango's wife, Benedicte, on his way to the referee's room.

Tarango insists that he does not bear a grudge against Agassi for triggering a chain reaction just the way it goes," he said. "It's so long ago, who really cares? It was a tough match. I still remember it to this day, Back then, nobody could hit winners. You just kept moonballing the ball back and forth. I remember him hitting some lobs so well that I was scraping my rackel against

Agassi, a three-times Lipton champion who has raised his world ranking from No 141 to has won all six of his matches

Tarango, ranked No 61, overprevious round, the Russian smashing his racket in frustration Henman, who has not at the end of the match, Tarango to the crowd as a victory trophy.

Agassi, having advanced against the Spaniard Albert Costa, 7-6, 4-6, 6-1, said be was looking forward to playing Taranso al in 1995. Teff has been playing extremely well. He presents different concerns than my last opponent. He doesn't move as well as Costa, but he certainly hits a big ball both sides. Being a lefty. he hits a flat ball. I've got to be willing to step it up against him. You know, it's nice to see him doing well. He's been working

hard. You can tell it's paid off." The latest instalment of Martina Hingis versus the Williams sisters takes place in the semi-finals of the women's singles. The Swiss world No 1 renews her rivalry with Venus, having edged through her first tussle with the younger Serena

don champion when be beat Ivan Lendl, has succumbed to a long list of injuries and announced he will retire from the game. Cash. 32, said yesterday that he would wrongs of that childhood meet- announce his retirement "in the

Sporting Digest

Basketbali

Cricket The international Cricket Council announced yesterday that the total prize-money for the 1999 World Cup, to be held in England, will be Stm &BO0000, with the winners receiving around £200,000. Cardigan Connor, the Hampshire fast

Cardigers Connot, the Hampehire test bowler who was forced to miss most of last season with a knee injury, is confident he will be fully fit when he rejoins the squed next week.

BANGLADERN TOUR (in Scotland, July): timeray: 4 July (Carm Trophy One-day match) v Scotland (Disport); 5 July (One-day match) v Scotland (Disport); 7-9 July (Latt trave-day match) v Scotland (Bougley Perry). 11 and 12 July (Carm Rophy one-day match) v Scotland (Disport) record time day record visited and take the record time and by Ambalway worked and the sea-match sealers 1-0.

ATTRACTOR WOT DOSE
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92, M. W. Goodwin 53, B. C. Strong 53).
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Western 192, Augustag Alvered 57).

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Between (25 35 into) 192
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Did not back Wisser Values Values Values (34-35-2)
Managers 2-0-11-0, Hackle 155-1-81-2: Strong 50-020-2 I the mater Meterment Week.

Football The midfielder Andy Gregory, 21, and the striker Karl Rose, 19, have signed extended contracts with Barnsley. Kevin Keegan, the Fulham manager, has failed with a £250,000 attempt to sign Portsmouth's Swedish interne-tional striker Mathias Svensson. The Concecal Gold Cup, the North and

The Concacel Gold Cup, the North and Central America championship, will expend to 12 teams and be played in the United States in February 2000.

TRANSFERS: Nerve Durkers (medicion) Stockport to Maccastled (\$15000; Rossell Intelligence Convert) Southernston to Milestine (Control Control Control

Golf SUNHINGDALE FOURSCARES (Combined transloaps in brachasts) Second round: New Course: J Hall (Ludybard) and H Wadeworth (Noverse European Four) (6) bt. I Vaseley and G Bottwell (More Part) (-2) if 20th, K Maxwell (Saringolds) and C Person-Levis (McConnetts) (1) bt C Potes and K Kelsell (Did Fold Manna) (-2) and 2. A Bott mut P Lorley (Dd Thoms) (-2) bt S Eaton (Carlegos) and B Tye (Burrier) (-2) bt S Eaton (Carlegos) and B Tye (Burrier) (-2)

3 and 2 P. Chapmain (European Tour) and K. Will (Knois Parid (-1) to L. Folding and M. Deal (Enfect) (-2) 4 and 3. M. Palcing and M. Deal (Enfect) (-2) 4 and 3. M. Palcing (M. Pitch) and I. Webster (M. Palcin) (M. Pitch) and I. Webster (M. Palcin) (M. Pitch) (M. P

Third sound: Old Course: Hall and Watchworth IX Maureal and Penton-Lawle: 4 and 5; Chapson and Well Edit and Ledge; 6 and 6; Larve and Fizzkernons to Cervies y and Christon 4 and 3; Lindelly, and Pile bit Albeit and Clusney 7 and 5; Pation and Watchelly IX Texnorth and Stanford 1 hole; Emerson and Debety IX Harver and Albeits and Hall and Stanford 1 hole; Emerson and Robey IX there and Albeits 1 Andrew and Albeits 5 and 2. Develop Politics Bernard and Hall and Stanford and Albeits 1 Andrew and Stanford and Albeits 1 Andrew and Stanford and Hall and Stanford and Albeits 1 Andrew and Stanford and Albeits 1 Andrew and Stanford 1 Andrew and Stanford 1 Andrew and Albeits 1 Andrew and Stanford 1 Andrew and Albeits 1

Ice hockey HHL New Janey 3 Philadelphia 2: Buffelo 2 Cal-gary 0: Phoenix 4 Tasonia 2: Vancouver 4 NY Idendera 5: Los Angeles 4 San Jose 5:

Motor racing
United States Grand Prix, a local Les
Vegas group, is entering a bid to buy
land at the end of the Les Vegas strip
to build a Formula One circuit and
championship golf course. The group
said the track would be used only once
a year for a possible season-ending
United States Grand Prix.

Pools dividends

PLALLY OF PORTUGAL First positions: 7 C Indgs + 1021; 6 Brand Burerry (Nett) R Her McPae (GB) Subaru Impress 4tr 20min 557ess; or + 1561; 6 Ef Education (See) C Guillou + 15

2 C Sairu: (Spai) Toyota Corolla +62:1900; 3 F Loix (Sul) Toyota Corolla +64: 4 R Burra (GS) Maudish Cariema +681; 5 A Wagnen (Fin) Ford Boort +5min 2022ec; 9 F Liettifus Schamu Impress +5:24:2 7 J Karlékuran (Fin) Ford Es-cert +5:382; 9 R Madrias (Por) Toyota Calica 10:241; 10 K Holowayo (Por) Subaru Impress +1:591 World champiouship standings (al-ler 4th round of 144: 1 C Sairu: (Spai) 20:05: 2 J Kerkfauren (Fin) 15: 3 R Burra (GS) 10: 4 Visianum (Fin) 6: Stanselecturers standings: 1 Metalish 25; 2 Ryota 25; 3 Ford 25; 4 Sub-eru 21.

Anthony Clement, the former Wales in-ternational full-back, has been grant-ed a benefit match by Swansea on 29

ed a benear match by Swensea on 29 April.
The French rugby union has decided to give literia enother two years to adopt a transmed-down, fully-professional isague. The leading clubs met in Paris yesterday and agreed to a French championship of 24 clubs spit into two pools of 12. This could be writted down to a First Division of 12 clubs in two years.

Sailing . with Interest House The World Race Shart leg (478 miles, 50% Sabastian, 51s., to Fort Lexterdals, 105): 1 EF Lenguage (590): P Cayard 146(57 miles to finite, 2 695 Car (525). Smith 174 miles to finite lexics; 2 houseful Meterner (Not) K Frostad +422; 4 Swedish-Match (590): 6 Kristit +457; 5 Merit Cup (Monaco) G Delton +595; 6 Chassie Recing (15) 4 Kontoci +462; 7 Ontobe (15) 7 Standishing of the Chassie (15) 1 Kontoci +462; 7 Ontobe (15) 7 Standishing of the Chassie Recing (15) 4 Kontoci +462; 7 Ontobe (15) 7 Standishing of the Chassie Recing (15) 4 Kontoci +462; 7 Ontobe (15) 7 Standishing of the Chassie Recing (15) 4 Kontoci +462; 7 Ontobe (15) 7 Standishing of the Chassie Recing (15) 4 Kontoci +462; 7 Ontobe (15) 7 Standishing of the Chassie Recing (15) 4 Kontoci +462; 7 Ontobe (15) 7 Standishing of the Chassie Recing (15) 4 Kontoci +462; 7 Ontobe (15) 7 Standishing of the Chassie Recing (15) 4 Kontoci +462; 7 Ontobe (15) 7 Standishing of the Chassie Recing (15) 4 Kontoci +462; 7 Ontobe (15) 7 Standishing of the Chassie Recing (15) 4 Kontoci +462; 7 Ontobe (15) 7 Standishing of the Chassie Recing (15) 4 Kontoci +462; 7 Ontobe (15) 7 Standishing of the Chassie Recing (15) 4 Kontoci +462; 7 Ontobe (15) 7 Standishing of the Chassie Recing (15) 4 Kontoci +462; 7 Ontobe (15) 7 Standishing of the Chassie Recing (15) 4 Kontoci +462; 7 Ontobe (15) 7 Standishing of the Chassie Recing (15) 7 Standishing of the Chassie Recing (15) 8 Standishing of the Chas

Tennis

LETTON CHAMPIONONITY (Key Bincayan, Flair)
Ment's atrigues, tourist returnet M Rice (Chile) by
G hardisevic (Crea) 62 6-2; T Enqvent (Siva) by G
Husedeld (Si) 62 6-2; S Campbal (US) by W Perrains (SA) 6-7 6-2 7-5; A Compile (Sp) by F Bantoro (FI) 6-1 3-6 6-8; A Agamai (US) by A Conta

TODAY'S NUMBER

The number of Teamsystem Bologna players who played the final two minutes of a European club basketball championship play-off against local rivals Kinder Bologna on Tuesday night, after the referee threw out two starting players and the team's entire bench for fighting.

(Sp) 7-6 4-6-1; C Kuerten (Bro) bt N Kleiter (Ger) 6-4 5-7 6-4. Wiczmen's singles, quarter-finsh V Wilsone (US) bt S Ferten (D) 6-1 8-2; T Herman (GS) bt G Kuerten (Bro) 5-2 8-4. HASSAN (r ATP TOURNAMENT (Cheshimes, May) Singles, second counds & Grospen (Fr) bt J Buris (Sp) 7-9 7-5; H Anad (Bro) bt J Diaz (Sp) 7-6 7-5; A Calastras (Sp) bt D Senghartif (6) 6-1 6-1; A Porter (Sp) bt A Sevot (Pang) 6-3 6-4.

Today's fixtures

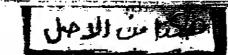
7.30 unless stated

UEFA UNDER-19 INTERMEDIARY CHAMPI-ONSHIP: England v France (or Stockport). UNIJET SUSSEX LEAGUE John O'Hara League Cap sant-finat Languey Sports v Port-field.

SCREWFIX DIFFECT LEAGUE Premier DiviSCREWFIX DIFFECT LEAGUE Premier Division: Theriton v Mangotafield.
NORTH WEST COUNTIES LEAGUE Pinst Division: Burscoppt v Gloscop North End.
NTERLINK EXPRESS MIDLAND ALLIANCEKings Norton v Wednesteld.
FRENDLY MATCH: Faither v Milliand.
AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION First Division: Norwich v bavich; Outen's Park Parques
v Wast Ham (20) (at Harrow Borough FG).

Rugby League FREENDLY MATCH: Doncesser v York (730). Speedway

SPEEDWAY STAR CUP: Ipewich v Poole (780); \$
Setroon v Wolverbernplon (730). Other sports GOLF: Surningslee Foursomes.
SitONCER: Benezu and Hause Irien Masters
(Golfs Ca.o., Kill, County Kildony).
SCHUSH: British Open Championship qualitying (Lambs Ca.o., London).



بكذا من الاعل

The second-favourite for

Kings, whose trainer, Aidan

cent. The younger model of

O'Brien is already installed at

Ballydoyle, the yard which the

great Vincent made famous.

and he too has built a formi-

dable reputation in the winter

code. It is barely a week since

Aidan O'Brien saddled the first

two home in the Champion

Hurdle at Cheltenham, and it

may he little more than a mouth

before he enjoys his first Clas-

for the Irish in general and

O'Brien in particular is Second

Empire, currently favourite for

the Derby in June. In fact,

some British punters may won-

der if we will keep any of our

.....A Mackay 2 94

A more exciting prospect still

sic victory in Britain.

FORM CUIDE

There are good reports about Mick Charmon's Lahib colt Franco Mina. Bit Turner's juvaless are also worth respecting – his Petong out King Foley looking the type to appreciate any further min. There is also a wishper for the Fisk Me filly whathlide Flyer, but Jack Berry's PRINCIPALITY could he the one from a draw near the stands-aide rail. His sin College Chapel was a classly spiriture who won a Cork & Chrery. Others to note are Gay Kelewsy's Board Up, whose see Up And At Tim was a winger of the Commalia, and Ken Ivory's Banningham Breeze.

2.35 BACKA WINNER BY TRAIN HANDICAP (D) 25,000 added 3YO 1m 2f 60yds Penalty Value £4,013

— 16 declared —
— 16 declared —
— 16 declared —
— 16 declared —
BETTING: 9-2 Remains, 6-1 Might Vigit, 6-1 Darcino, 7-1 Quintus, 6-1 Di Matino, 10-1 Lucky Double, Scene, Thinbleweed Hero, 12-1 Narrogin, Pipe Mindic, 14-1 Counsel, Petane, Winsome George, 20-1 others

1997: Mindie Kol 8 to L Detion 8-2 (J Gosden) (town (2) 16 ran

3.10 TOTE/49'S HANDICAP (CLASS B) £30,000

Fabre and O'Brien poised to extend their empires

racing season over the last 15 or way or another be described as a good one for André Fabre, but tenham and an entire jumps seathe campaign which begins oo son, to find a memory of the prethe blustery expanse of Town vious Flat season which is strong Moor today could turn out to be enough to grasp. Not so in 1998, the finest yet for the man who however, since the mental piccan fairly claim to be the most ture of Peintre Celebre's victosuccessful trainer in Europe.

The best-known names in Newmarket might bridle at that six months undiminished. description, but the statistics are awesome. Fabre has already won his first Group race of the furlong pole to dart five lengths year, the Prix Exbury at Saint-Cloud earlier this month, to take his career tally of Group races to an astonishing total of 359. No other European trainer

Fabre's season than mere num- comparable Sea Bird. ber-crunching, since the Frenchman prepares the two colts Celebre returns for another which most punters would nominate as the most exciting in train- Fabre's colt lining up in the King ing. In a normal March, it is George at Ascot in July will be something of an effort to grope the finest marketing tool at back in the mind, past Chel- any track's disposal this year.

Doncaster

.30 Master Beveled

2.35 NARROGIN (nap)

3.10 Dancethenightaway (nb)

2.05 Franco Mina

Flat racing on turf returns to Britain today but, as Greg Wood so years which could not in one predicts, the season may be dominated by the French and Irish

> ry in the Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe has survived the last

It was not just the burst of speed which he produced at the clear, but also the agility likened by some to that of a polo pony - which left French and British spectators alike comparing him to Dancing Brave, the winner of the race 11 years And there should be more to earlier, and even the hitherto in-

> Unlike the Brave, Peintre campaign, and the prospect of

HYPERION

GOIMG: Good.
STALLS: Straight course - stands side; round course - inside; round mile - outside.
DRAW ADVANTAGE: None.

Left-hand, pear-shaped course with fin straight.
Course is east of the town off the ASSS (M18-Junctions 3 & 4). Bue link from Doncester Control rail station. ADMISSION: Culo S15; Grandstand S9; Furnity Enclosure S3 (under-ties free all enclosures). CAR PARIC Free.

LEADING TRAINERS; 8 Hills - 31 winners from 178 runners gives a success ratio of 174%; Mrs J Ramadan 19 from 188 (101%); M Johnston 14 from 154 (51%); P Cole 10 from 59 (169%).

LEADINO JOCKEYS: K Derley 31 wine from 239 rides gives a auccess ratio of 13%;
 K Fallon 29 from 210 (58%);
 B Hills 29 from 156 (179%);
 J Fortune 17 from 158 (10.9%).
 FAVOUR ITES: 139 wine in 659 races (29.3%).
 BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Hadeqn (viscoed) (2.05).

1.30 SPRING APPRENTICE HANDICAP (CLASS F) £3,000 added 1m 4f Penalty Value £2,486

| Comment | Comm

vertors Ltd: Mass G Kellewer B 11 ...

AA-YOUKNOWMOTHING (Bodiari Sud Liu) M W Easierby 6 11.

BANKINGHAM BRIEZZ (Crown Select) K Ivary 6 11.

EXECUTIVE EVENT (7 Flowley) P Hostern 6 11.

FRANCO MAIN AS Praction M Channon 8 11.

GOLDEN REEF (M Johnson) R Hollestiead 6 11.

HADEGA (Man Belaving Badly) P Evens 6 11.

EWIS FOLEY (Foley Selections) W G M Turner 6 11.

PIPS MAGIC Front Bradly J Golde 8 17.

PIPS MAGIC Front Bradly J Golde 8 11.

PRINCIPALITY (Mrs John Magnier) J Berry 6 11 SWAFFHAM (P D Savil) M W Easterby 6 11.....

 c^{-1}

OSD4 TOTEM DANCER (15) (D) (Dismond Racing) J.L. Eyro 5 9 12 ... 30230- MYSTIC RIDGE (J89) (P Byrne) 9 Curley 4 6 11. 8634 DPERA BUFF (7) (D) (D W Weison) Mes G Kelleway 7 6 11. 20041 RUSSAN RUSER (17) (D) (A L.R. Morted) A Janes 4 9 8

3.40 Russian Music

4.10 Prolix

And as if one champion were not enough, Fabre is also an the 2,000 Guineas is King Of even-money chance to take the first colts' Classic in Britain, the O'Brien, will attempt to extend 2,000 Guineas, with last year's still further the strange sym-Dewhurst winner, Xaar. With his metry between his own career easy success in the event, and the and that of his namesake, Vin-

RICHARD EDMONDSON NAP: Master Beveled (Doncaster 1.30) NB: Di Matteo (Doncaster 2.35)

Dewhurst-Guineas precedent set by Fabre's other recent Classic winners, Zafonic and Pennekamp, it appears that injurywhich is always possible - or an emergent three-year-old wonder horse - which is rather less so stand between the trainer and yet another Group One winner.

i Saturday's Independent the Flat trainers nominate their horses to follow

Classics at home, and the best we can hope for may be the slightly desperate version of "home" which is the Dubai- Fabre: Outstanding team based Godolphin operation.

The Godolphin horses will arrive in Britain as usual just a few days before the Guineas meeting, among them Embassy and Cape Verdi, two of last year's best juvenile fillies. Both will run under the now familiar training licence, but an interesting new addition to the team this year is David Loder. The Newmarket trainer will prepare 30 horses for Godolphin, a boost to his team which prompted one existing owner to comment that Loder was now "private trainer" to the royal blue silks, before moving his

own horses elsewhere. No-one can doubt Sheikh Mohammed's eye for young training talent, however, and Loder may soon stand shoulderto-shoulder with his most significant Newmarket neighbours. it will not get any easier.



A former member of the Godolphin team, however, will be setting out on his own. Jeremy Noseda was widely thought to have been the training brains behind the operation's most successful season, when Lammname of Saeed bin Suroor, the tarra won the Derby, King man who holds Godolphin's George and Arc. After a brief spell in America, he is now back in Britain, and while the Sheikh does not figure among his owners, he is surely the obvious trainer to follow.

> new arrival, in the shape of "showcase" races. These daily events - almost inevitably handicaps - will be heavily promoted as part of the British Horseracing Board's strategy to promote betting turnover. They should certainly make the business of punting more interesting, but you can also be sure that

a factor when aboard a horse of the class of Silver Charm, the first Kentucky Derby winner to race overseas for 63 years.

Look out too for another

US hero gets the best of Dubai draw THE AMERICAN star Silver said, "and I don't know what he

Charm was tipped to become is capable of. He's very genuine, one of his country's greatest full of heart and determination. racehorses as he secured pole position in the Dubai World later this year. But I hope he will Cup yesterday. His big-race go down in the States as one of jockey Gary Stevens predicted he would develop into "one of the greatest we've seen" as he forecast victory for the Kentucky Derby winner in Saturday's \$4m showpiece.

His trainer. Bob Baffert, drew stall 10 for the grey Silver Charm, on the wide outside of the field, when the post positions were announced in Dubai, But starting position becomes less of

"It's scary to think about it but we've not got to the bottom of Silver Charm yet," Stevens

"You will sec the best of him the greatest we've seeo. I anticipate winning on Saturday and am looking forward to it. Frankic Dentori, who will

partner the 5-1 chance Predappio in preference to Swaio (Mick Kinane), arrived hot from a success in the United States at the weekend. He has yet to figure in this event following defeats on Halling and Kammtarra, "Silver Charm has got the best draw," Dettori said. "He can control the race and we will all have to do what he wants to do," he said.

DUBAI WORLD CUP DRAW: 1 Malek, 2 Predeppio, 3 Luan, 4 Sehvens, 5 Kydio City, 5 Swan, 7 Osalagu, B Borgia, 9 Loup Sazvege, 10 Sever Charm.

Now McCoy is out on his own

TONY McCOY duly broke Peter Scudamore's record of 221 winners in a season at Ludlow yesterday but there was a rare setback for the champion jockey when he was beaten on the 30-100 shot that he had predicted would take him to the new mark.

So it was Petite Risk, another odds-on shot, rather than Doctoor, whose name will go down in history. "I was disappointed not to win the first and Coy was swiftly on his feet.

DONCASTER

ners, including Oczlem and Pre-mier Touch, The fact that Gay

Kelleway has booked the forceful

Kieren Fallon means this colt must go on the shortlist, Mick Channon,

whose Stately Princess took third

place in this event last year, fields

am delighted to get it over with," McCoy said, "I didn't think it would happen this quickly."

Quizzed as to his next larget, McCoy said: "I've got some good rides at Liverpool and I'll probably take a break in June."

McCoy, who has had no injuries or suspensions this season, had a swift reminder of the perils of his profession when his mount in the handicap chase, Tellicherry, took a tumble. Mc-

2.05: TOUCH UP is speedily bred and is a half-brother to several win-

3.10: Lord Rich Admiral runs well disadyantaged, Brian Meehan frequently does well at the start of the Flat season on turf, and is repre-

3.40: Hidden Meadow won first

HYPERION'S TV TIPS

with Michael Roberts in the saddie and is likely to blaze a trail down the middle of the track. This should ensure that low numbers are not sented here by DANCETHE-NIGHTAWAY, who should be suited by the fast early pace.

time out last season, at Newmarket in April, and has class. So does In Command, winner of the 1996 Dewhurst Stakes at Newmarket but a disappointment last term. RUSSIAN MUSIC has plenty on his plate in this Listed race but comes to hand early and may be sharper than his main rivals.

SHOWCASE RACE

Doncaster — 3.40

3.40 DONCASTER MILE (Listed) (CLASS A) S16,250 1m (round) Penalty Value £11,443

1897: Carryon Creek 4 8 12 L Detrort 7-2 (J Gosden) drawn (2) 8 ran
FORM GUIDE
Hidden Meadow won the Free Handleap in cracking style on his first outing lest season is holds an obvious chance of deflying the 3th penalty for the Listed race win from Poten at York. But the unpenetised runner of note is IN COMMANID, winner of the Dewhurst but disappointing when lightly raced last term. A son of Sadler's Wells, in Command could return to something like his best on this type of ground and rates a decent bet around the 4-1 mark. Russian Mulate goes well for Kieren Feltin and, while the wins have all been on fast ground, the Forzando gelding has a chance on his hundledp win on the course in September, Hornbaum came to hand early last season with a soft-ground win at Newbury. A cracking thirt to Among Men in the Jessey Stakes next time, he has not been since swinging wide on the home turn in a strong hundleap at Sandown in July, He looks to have a better chance then the remainder, though further rain would greatly aid Prince Of My Heart.

Selection: IN COMMANO

20	med enough transmission list of 15-1 serios and 1 day money 14-1 continued Lancine attraction country	CONTROL OF THE PROPERTY OF THE
16	20-1 others	A 10 CHRIS LIESACK 40TH BIRTHDAY MAIDEN STAKES
8	1997: Minade Kld 8 10 L Dettori 9-2 (J Gosden) drawn (Z) 16 ram	4.10 (CLASS D) £5,000 3YO 1m (straight) Penalty Value £3,688
12	FORM GUIDE	1 0- CODED MESSAGE (159) (P A Doe) J Glover 90S D Williams 7
22	Night Vigil won a handicap on the registered slow surface at Lingfield leat month – the	2 DEEP DIVE (W.S. Fartsh III) P Cole 9 8
21	colt running clean away from Frankie Farrari. His rating is up 12to but hels still 8to better	Common Art Common Commo
11	in with Barusten on nursery form in November, Bewelen has won twice since at Wolver-	8 DECES - FREE OPTION (142) (Almost All) 8 Hambury 80
,	hampton and has a leading chance over this longer trip. DI Mutten will be sharper for his	4 O- INCEPTA (186) (A L R Mortor) B Has 8 0
	all-weather second to Libra Star last month, Danzino was fitter than Counsel when B	5 KHALED (Hernari Al-Mutanes) K Mehril 6 8
"		5 0045-0 LAKELAND PRIDE (8) [D Melonsy) D Nichols 6 0
19	two-length winner at Lingfield test month. Counsel is 5th worse off here but could still play	7 222- PROLD((179) (K Abdules); S Hills S 6
17	a part in the hands of top apprentice Action McCarthy, Tumblewood Hero, a son of Alzao,	
5	should like easy ground and his form wean't that had effer the debut second to Trans le-	8 60 TIGULLIO (138) (E Land) C Wall 88S Sundars 1
R	land at Newbury. Lucky Double finished last term by beating a big field at Sallabury (71),	6 O- AMEENA (198) (R Moredan) R Rahey 88K Darley 5
	but the best bet is OCUNTUS, fourth to Trans Island at Newbury on his debut and then	10 65- CHASETOWN CALLIN (281) (Chasetown Ltd) R Holimetexad 8 8
	ploped by Opera King at Doncaster. He can take up a good early position from his low	- 16 declared -
•	person by Opera Ising at Delicason in the land up a good early position from his low	BETTING: 1-3 Profix, 9-2 Ocep Dive, 7-1 Free Option, 14-1 Khelad, 25-1 Tigatio, 33-1 Incepts, Ameens,
Z	draw and might just prove the type to win handicaps over this longer trip. Petane showed	40-1 others
4	some promise as a juvenile and pould figure at decent odds.	
ä	Selection: QUINTUS	. 1997: Fly To The Stars 3 88 J Weaver 5-8 fev (M Johnston) drewn (2) 8 rain
4		FORM GUIDE
-		DBOLD is to a different leasure to those life price will be abused as it about I be often

PROLIX is in a conferent league to these. His price will be stry and so it should be after cot. This others cannot be entertained, with Paul Cotes newcomer Deep Dive having to be a bit special to cause an upset. Free Option is the only other of any note judged on the second juvenile start when a neck-second to Derryquin at Lingfield—form which push him two stone below Prob.

21. 4500-5 COBLE (113) (Clayton Bigley Ltd) O McCeln 4 7 10. P Femory 18 8 22. PP-600. SEA GOD (17) (McCern Ltd) M Chepman 7 7 10. D Williams (5) 16	3.10 101E/49'S HANDICAP (CLASS B) 230,000	the close battles with Mahboots at Newbury, City Honours here and Teapor Row at As- cot. The others cannot be entertained, with Paul Coles newcomer Deep Dive having to
-22 declared - Minimum weight: 7st 10th, True hendicap weights: Coble 7st 8th, See God 7st.	1 0500- PROUD NATIVE (187) (D) (P Swill) D Nichols 4 10 8	be a bit special to cause an upset. Free Option is the only other of any note judged on his second juvenile start when a neck-second to Derryquin at Lingfield - form which puts
BETTING: 9-2 Moster Beveled, 15-2 Galapino, 8-1 Marathon Mald, 9-1 Stooming America, 10-1 Filel, 12-1 Febry Knight, Russian Buler, Private Disputch, 14-1 Opers Bull, Poker School, Totam	3 8001- RUDI'S PET (182) (CD) (J. Receden) Mrs. J. Remeden 4 8 11	him two stone below Prolic. Selection: PROLIX
Dencer, 18-1 Hazast, Kintari, Mystic Ricige, Summerhill Special, 20-1 others.	5 08200- SHARP HAT (179) (C) (J C Smith) R Harron 487	A 40 FAUCETS EQUIPMENT LADIES HANDICAP (CLASS F)
1997; Galapino 4 7 8 R Mullen (5) 13-2 it fav (Mes G Kelleway) chawn (21) 24 ran FORMI GUIDE	8 00405 - PASSION FOR LIFE (179) (0) (Ctristop Blootstock) W. lervis 5 8 4	4.40 FAUCETS EQUIPMENT LADIES HANDICAP (CLASS F) £3,000 added 1m 2f 60yds Penalty Value £2,416
Galapino won this off a teather weight last year but this looks a lot tougher for him off today's much higher handicap rating. Added McCarthy has been impressing on the el-	8 00402- THE GAY POX (181) (D) (G Whiteler) B McMahan 4 8 1	1 04-400 BREAK THE RULES (JST) (CD) (J Wilrost) D Michols 6 11 7
weather and his booking for MASTER BEVELED must be a real plus. This eight-year-old- hasn't won over this trig before but he's well handicapped on his backend wins in 1996	10 OPED-SPENDER (152) (D) (The Entreprensus) P Harris 8 8 9	6 40000- MARADI (J21) (Ma B Curley) B Curley 4 10 7
and decart hurde runs last month with seconds to fire Supposin and Red Blazer gives the Impression halls in the right sort of heart to take the besting. Any cut in the ground	12 TIZ-2 STATE OF CAUTION (IZ) (LIC Fistwell) D Shaw 5 8 8	5 2050 CRYSTAL HEIGHTS (1985 (Mrs H Nooman) & Cambridge 10 10 5 Mazai Nooman (S) 18 000-60 WHO'S THAT MAN (St) (D) (T J Duffy) & C Williams 4 10 4 Mazai Managaia Pennetic S
would not help Opera Buff and Blooming Amazing, but Fairy Knight has won in soft ground over this trip and is 5tb lower today. Russian Ruser, winner of a poor meiden over	14 D0600- CAUDA EQUINA (213) (0) (6 A Foy) M Chernon 4 8 4 A Mackey 17 89 10 . 1021- AFAAN (96) (0) (5 Gray) R Marvin 5 8 3 S Highton (7) 7 B 102	7 CO/6- VANADUM DRE (485) (D) (E Gerth Ornord) W McKeown 5 10 3 Petiting Robsou 12 6 62/436 AJDAR (15) (F Lamyman) Mrs 8 Lamyman 7 10 2 Margaret Monts (5) 6
this distance at Southwell after being gelded, would have a squeak, while Filial reversed	18 C-2024 GADGE (9) (JB Wicour) A Balley 7 8 8 D Wylight 2 89 17 00-411 DEPRECIATE (9) (0) (1 Amiliage) T D Barron 5 7 12 (6xg) L Charnock 1 118	8 -45636 NOSEY NATIVE (23) (Mrs L Pearce) J Pearce 5 10 2
previous form with Greenspan over this trip at Southwell last time and has a highly com- petent partner to help. Private Deepstch has been in fine form on the all-weather and	- 18 006-00 SWYNFORD DREAM (29) (D) (Chellinit Holdings) J Hotherion 5 7 10 J Lowe 3 85 18 declared	10 50060- MR MONTAGUE (J.113) (C J P Recng) T Donnelly 6 10 1
Totom Dencer will like the ground but has a big weight to defy. Selection: MASTER BEVELED	Minimum weight: 7st 10b. True handicap weight: Swynlord Dream 7st 7lb.	12 00-345 RAINDEER OLIEST (22) (Minestoneolifie Psinp) J.L. Eyre 6.9 12 Diane Alteren (7) 13 10 0-3222 DR EDGAR (6) (0) (A G Weston) J.L. Eyre 6.8 12
DECOME ESPACIALES (CLASS D) 57 250 edded	BEITING: 5-1 Depreciate. 7-1 Pession For Life, 9-1 Rodf's Pet, The Gay Fox, 11-1 State Of Cau- tion, 12-1 Caude Equine, Deucethenightsway, 14-1 Alexu, Proud Native, 16-1 Assestment, Gadge,	10 O(0-1 THE REAL MCCOY (95) (Mas E L Ramedon) Mrs J Remaden 4 8 10
2.05 BROCKLESBY STAKES (CLASS D) £7,250 added C4	Lord High Admiral, Pure Coincidence, Sharp Hat, 20-1 Seaninghem Blade, Spender, 33-1 others 1997: Busial Fentacy 6 8 to R Laupin 19-2 (J Eyre) drawn (9) 12 ran	16 056230 ACUANTA (23) (E Houghton) J 5 Moore 4 9 4
AALVONRONOWNOTHING (Budlari Stud Lich M W Easterby 8 TIT Luces 6	FORM OURDE	-17 dadwad -

Lord High Admiral, Pure Coincidence, Sharp Hat, 20-1 Basinlegham Blade, Spander, 33-1 others
1697: Busini Fantasy 8 8 10 R Lappin 13-2 (J. Eyne) drawn 9) 12 zm
FORM OUDE
What a best DEPRECIATE would be with a stande-side draw. This is a big field and Depreciate is stawn on the wide outside, but the son of Bevelod is still the one they all have as best. Twice a winner at two, Depreciate his stored best effective with the sum of Bevelod is still the one they all have as best. Twice a winner at two, Depreciate has stored lightweight Lindsay Charmock aboard today. The drop to the minimum trip affer the six-furiong win cidn't halk his progresse last time when he beat Hilton's Executive, and he goes of a pound lower mark here even with the 6b penalty. Sharp Hat has the standers also position and was second to Dearing Blas in the Portisand here. Proud Native has done in seven-length Southwell win from Record form. Rued's Pet thethed lest season with a win on this course but this 9th rise sate kind of the portisand here. Proud Native last dones the winning on test ground, while Pire Done has the standers and this two-furiong shorter to the standard and this two-furiong shorter to a stem test, Anseilman had a percelor and the course but this 9th rise sate had a couple of recent runs and wouldn't he without a chance at big odds on his old form. Rued's Pet thethed lest season with a win on this course but this 9th rise sate him.

Me with an apprentice, and Depreciate has strong lightweight Lindsay Charmock aboard today. The drop to the minimum rip affer the six-furing win cloth test his progress last time when he beat Hiltons Executive, and he goes off a pound lower mark here even with the 6th penalty. Sturp Hart has the stands-side position and was second to Dearting Blue in the Portland here. Proud Native has done he withing on test ground, while Fire Done has had a couple of recent runs and wouldn't he without a chance at big odds on his old form. Rucd's Pet thethed lest season with a win on this course but this 9th rise sate fairn a stem test, Ameniman had a needed run if 2 days sog and this consistent sort, while a stem test. Ameniman had a needed run if 2 days sog and this consistent sort, while a series state of recent runs and wouldn't he without a chance at big odds on his old form. Rucd's Pet thethed lest season with a win on this course but this 9th rise sate fairn a stem test. Ameniman had a needed run if 2 days sog and this consistent sort, while a school for the state of caution has only ever won on the all-weather on the substance of suction has only ever won on the all-weather for but his would not seem his ideal opening and 5 table of caution has only ever won on the all-weather for Butte has been on the el-weather and a well handcasped on his intended proposed and the trobust has been on the el-weather and a well handcasped on his region and the contract of juvenile and a likely type to go well at a price after the rest, a proposed and the contract of juvenile and a likely type to go well at a price after the rest, a proposed and the contract of juvenile and a likely type to go well at a price after the rest, and high proposed and the contract of juvenile and a likely type to go well at a price after the rest, and high proposed and the trobust has been on the el-weather and as well handcasped on his industry. Break The Rutes has been on the el-weather and as well handcasped on his hand has a price after the rest. Or Ed

- 6 declared -BETTHRE: 5-2 Supermick, 7-2 Mrs Bm, 5-1 Secret Service, 6-1 Ghowing Purk, 6-1 Stakisjeck, 16-1 Almond Rock, Bold Oxim-tal, 12-1 Orasesthateneed

5.20 OPEN NH FLAT RACE (CLASS H)

£1,500 added 2m 1 1 KMSFORD ROSE (42) (CD) 8 TI 6...... A P McCey

6 EU/IS (12) 5 11 4 _____ LORD BUSTER 6 11 4 ____

WINES OF FIRE 8 11 4

BLACK OAK 5 11 4 _____ Mr R Widger (7) EU/IS (12) 5 11 4 ____ R Denotoch

___ WE MIR MARCH

0 ROYAL SPARK (117) 6 11 4 ______ G Yon 6 SLEIGHT OF HUND (24) 5 11 4 _____ M Sicin 4 YAMBUSTER (26) 8 11 4 _____ S Burno

FRANCO MINA. Channon said earlier this week that this is colt has been working sharply at home.

2.35: Night Vigil is burdened with top weight but scored fluently on the sand at Lingfield in February (1m 2f). A similar run on today's turf surface would make him hard to beat. A strict reading of form at Wolverhampton in January (Im) gives Kieren Fallon's mount, Bawsian, the edge over Night Vig-II but this distance could favour Michael Hills's horse. However, this could fall to NARROGIN. This gelding has fine prospects if re-peating his display at Newmarket

First show Doncaster --- 3.10 Depreciate 54 92 92 103 Passion For Life 104 8-1 7-1 8-1

in August when a staying-on third to Outsourcing and Ron's Pet.

Recific Pot 8-1 9-1 16-1 10-1 The Gay Fire 8-1 10-1 8-1 16-4 State Di Caulion 10-1 8-1 11-1 10-1 Denor/nightpuny 2-1 12-1 12-1 12-1 12-1 Prout Native 12-1 14-1 14-1 Aftens 18-1 14-1 14-1 14-1 Caudia Equina 14-1 16-1 12-1 16-1 Gedge 164 16-1 16-1 18-1 Lord High Admiral 12-1 14-1 18-1 16-1 Para Coincidence 12-1 16-1 10-1 16-1 Sharp Hat 12-1 11-1 16-1 14-1 20-1 14-1 16-1 14-1

Spender 20-1 28-1 20-1 20-1 Fire Dome 25-1 25-1 25-1 25-1 Berningham Black 25-1 33-1 20-1 25-1 Swymford Dreem 50-1 50-1 40-1 50-1 C-Cost H-William HLL-Lactories, T-Total

EXETER

Horse C H L Hidden Mendow 13-8 9-4 5-2 2-1 in Command 7-2 7-2 7-2 7-2 Russian Music 7-2 5-2 11-4 11-4 Hombern 6-1 7-1 5-1 8-1 Prince Of My Heart 9-1 6-1 6-1 6-1 Witching Hour 9-1 12-1 12-1 14-1 Milyan Col 201 181 25-1 25-1 Sharing 33-1 33-1 35-1 33-1 Eachway a lith the odds, places 1, 2, 3 C-Cool H - Wilson Hit L - Lecturies, T., Trie

£620; £140, £300, £950. DF: £1090, CSF: £1942. Trio: not won (pool of £27966 carned forward to Doncaster 310 today).

TOWCESTER

Racing results

EXETER

2.20: 1. MISS ONDEE (Larne Evane) 1011 fav; 2. Obelos 7: 1; 3. Thomas Crown
15-2. 8 ran. des. 22; (M Proe), Tole: \$1.60;
110, £120, £180 DF: £660 CSF: £588

2.50: 1. BALLY LIFA (S Burrough) 7-1;
2. TBy 7-4 fav; 3. Happy Horse 33-1 7 ran.
18; 19, PRodicot). Bose £730; £250, £180.
DF: £570, CSF: £579

3.20: 1. RAGTTMEE BOY (ILawrence) 101; 2. Begelino 3-1 [t fav; 3. Senom Duite 3-1 [t fav, 12 ran. 6; a [C Burrows], Tole: £720;
D400, £710, £180 DF: £9840, CSF: £5986
Incast £70843. This: £7730. Non Rumners:
Genrman Walger, fostano.
3.50: 1. CAPENWRAY (W Marstor) 2-1;
2. Pennymoor Prince 3-8 fax; 3. Millicrott
Rivlers 2-1.4 ran. 29-, des. U Kng). Tobe:
£280. DF: £200. CSF: £558. Non Rumner.
Lance Armstong. Place 9: £28.31 Place 5: £23.17. Piace 8: E28.31. Piace 5: E28.37.

TOWCESTER

2.10: 1. HOTSPUR STREST (Ates S Samworth) 10-1; 2. Hever Golf Eagle 14-1; 3. Admiral's Guest 5-2 | tax 11 ran. 5-2 | tax North End Lady [puided up), 17. (E. James). Tibes: £10.0; £2.20, £2.0; £1.30 0F; £5.90. CSF; £74.94 No bid for the winner Tho. £8.70.

2.40: 1. SHADRACH (R Thornson) 4-1; 2. Willie Wannebe 25-1; 3. Wayteren Way 10-11 fax. 4 ran. 18, 17. (Ates H Mobbey). Totas 54.70. DF; £6.20. E5F; £3.89.

3.10: 1. PETTAUGH (Afchael Brevnan) 13-2; 2. Miles Brecknell 7:1; 3. Thirty Below 11: 9 ran. 2-1 fav Five Flegs (4th) 3. 15. (G Hubberg). Takes £84.0; £2.30. £19. £2.50. DF. £4.20. CSF; £48.89. Thoast: £457.08. This £7.890. Amended result: Mass Brecknell was first past the post but was denoted to second place after a stewards inquiry 3.40: 1. RAMALLAH (M A Fizeranti) 11-4 tax; 2. Lary R Off 3-1; 3. Massawy's Cholce 4-1.7 ran. 5; 28. (Mass H Knight). Roise £370; £1.50. £240. DF; £4.60. CSF; £13.8.

4.10: 1. RAMALLAH (M A Fizeranti) 7-1; 2. Reach The Clouds 4-1 fax; 3. Deughter in Law 25-1 15 ran. 7, 1 (P Webbert, Totas £730; £1.00. £1.0

5280. DF: 5200. CSF: 53:8 Non Punner: Lance Armstrong. 4.20: 1. SORPEEL HILL. (Mr L. Lerford) 8-4 fax; 2. Saint Joseph 5-1; 3. Rusty Fel-low 16-1 8 ran. 9. dist. (Mrs. C. Egation). Tota: 52:50; 51:40; 51:40; 51:40; 57:221. CSF: 57:50; 4.56: 1. VA UTU Liamie Exempt 13-2; 2. Grand Applicase 7-1; 3. Wegosi Alien 9-4 tax. 11 ran. 1, 14. (M Pipe). Tota: 54:70; 51:70, 53:90; 51:50; DF: 52:40; GSF: 54:33; Titoast: 511:36; Tito: \$18:80; NF: Grann Island. Jackpot: not won pool of SS80366 carried forward to Doncaster today). Placepot: £2990. Guardeot: £1440. Place 8: £1895. Place 8: £1504. LUDLOW

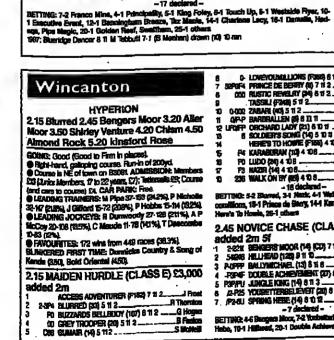
2.00: 1. ANLACE (Cittle Webb) 14-1; 2. Decinor 3-10 fer; 3. Lager Light Lady 100-1 7 ran. 11/4, 3 (S. Melor, Swindon). Rote: 5270; 5310, 5101 DF: 5370, CSF; 57709. Non E270; G30, Srúp DF: E370; CSF: C7798 Non Runner: Aircense Princess. 2.30: 1. MARD FOR ADVISTURE (8 Fen-ton) 11-4; 2. Desert Cate 9-1; 3. Side Bar 50-1. II ram. 4-5 tay Bold Sustement (unseated roter). 27, 6. Mess H Kright, Warntage). Total 54-40; E3.00. E140; ESFI DF: C20.00 CSF: 521:30. Tho: E71:20. NR: Negare Sound. 3.00: 1. PETITE RISK (A P McCoy) 8-11 fev; 2. The Roundsilla 25-1; 3. Gy-bertactingloopy 2-1. 8 ram. 13, 22, 64 Pion.

LIVE COMMENTARIES RESULTS DONCASTER 971 981 WINCANTON 972 PLUMPTON 973 ALL COURSES RESULTS <u>0891 261 970</u> Williamson) 3-1; 2. Alts 11-2; 3. Benshe House 33-1 18 ran, 7-4 lay Our Grible (4th) 31/2, 11/4, (K Balley, Upper Lambourn), Total

INDEPENDENT

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2.45 NUVICE CHASE (CLASS E) £4,500
added 2π 5f
1 2211 SENGER MOOR (14 [CD) 7 8 8. In J Texas G;
2 SARG HELLEAD (120) 9 11 0 B Powel
3 PAPPE BALLYHACHAE (15) 8 1 8 G G;
4 PERF DUBLE ACHEPISHEN (27) 8 13 T Decombs
5 PSPFU JUNGLE NOR (14) 8 11 3 G;
5 PSPFU JUNGLE NOR (14) 8 11 3 G;
6 PSS YOUSETTERSELEVET (20) 8 11 3 G;
7 PSGU SPRING HERE (14) 8 10 2 T J Harphy
7 PSGU SPRING HERE (14) 8 10 2 T J Harphy

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4.20 NOVICE HUNTER CHASE (CLASS H)
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ALight, 74 Ryme And Run, 84 Chartmenntarifo, 10-1 others
4-50 HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS E)

4.50 HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS E)

4.20 NOVICE HUNTER CHASE (CLASS H)

4.00 NOVICE CHASE (CLASS E) £4,000 5.05 'NH' NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS E)

Plumpton

2.25 Seize The Day 2.55 Another Course 3.30 Mega Tid 4.00 Muhtadi 4.30 Bailygriffin Lad 5.05 Not Really

GOING: Good.

Dicthrend, uncutating course with strarp bends

GCourse is off A275 8 of Haywards Headt, ADMSSSICNEblembers PER Titatemate PER Carrier SR per care plus ES per
person. CAR PARK: \$1.

TRAINERS: R Hodges 14-65 (215%), R Rower 13-66
(35%), J Geolden (2-77 (55%), J Rowells 11-29 (423%).

GJOCKEYS: M A Fitzgardd 15-78 (523%), J R Kovanagh

3-70 (185%), W Marston 5-40 (125%), M Batchalor 4-34
(1859). (TLEYG).

FAVOURDTES: 202 wins from 474 races (42.7%).
BLINKERED FIRST TIME: None.

— 12 deciard — BETTNIC: 3-1 Misminuta, 4-1 Merylin, Distant Storm, 8-1 Saize The Day, 8-1 Bend Sabia, Eager Banner, 12-1 others 2.55 HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS F) £3,250 added 2m 5f 1 Feor Mother DEADLY (RD) to 11 _____J fl Knowngtr :

921TMG: 5-2 Avolber Conse, 3-1 First Instance, 4-1 Anber Spark, 9-2 Northern Optimist, 6-1 others.

3.30 SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS G) \$2,000 acided 2m 1f 40,530 fb; \$2,000 acided 2m 1f 40,530 fb; \$2,000 acided 2m 1f 20,550 fb; \$2,000 fb; \$0,500 fc; \$0.19 _ Mr JL Lievellyw 31,646 (0.000 fb; \$1.10 fc; \$1.10 fc;

added 2m 1-325 AUGUST TWELFTH (\$) (C) 10 1/2 __M Batchalor (7) 3.30 SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE (20) 10 5 06 11 2 Planty (2) 5 56 (CLASS G) 22,000 added 2m 1f 40734 DERBEN (10) (20) 10 25 M Bachelor (7) 8 SETTING 45 Material 95 August Twelle, 14-1 John Britishey

E2,900 acided 2m; 4f

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5 25-20 N THE VAN (87) 8 m z ______ D Casinghier

6 405 MALLOVA (6) 5 m z ______ J R Kessengh

7 402225 PROCEED (20) 8 m z ______ J R Kessengh

8 05 ESCURON GALE (2038 6 2 ______ M A PROJECT

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10 0 XELORAN BAY (39 7 0 m ______ J K MCCHNY (7)

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11 00 MCLUT DREAMER (20) 8 m m ______ P Hestery (3) - 11 declared -SETTING: 6-4 Not Posity, 9-2 Securon Gain, 5-1 Proceed, 6-is The Van, 10-4 Milutove, 12-1 Kiloran Bay, 29-1 others

4.30 HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS F) £3,250

Hussain's nous can put England house in order

WHEN success and failure in sport cao be measured io 10,000ths of a second. England's 3-1 defeat by the West Indies, on the back of three days' poor cricket, may seem a huge margin. In fact, on the poor pitches much of this series was played on there has been little that reason Stewart's dotage between the sides. Had Angus Fraser not spilled that vital caught and bowled in the first Trinidad Test, Michael Atherton's successor, would not yet be so much as a twinkle in the eye.

Once a captain goes, particularly in dramatic circumstances, there inevitably follows a frenzy of speculation over who the successor might be. Fur once the candidates seem obvious, and a straight choice between Nasser Hussain and Alec Stewart is where the wise money lies. Braver speculators, however, may like to consider Adam Hollioake, Mark Ramprakash and Nick Knight, the recent A team captain.

For many, not least those who long for a return to starched whites and stubble-free chins, the safest option would be to pick Stewart. At 35, he is no longer young, but his dedication and fitthe job until someone younger feels ready to take over. However, apart from his lack of distinction as captain of Surrey. there is one simple reason why Stewart should not be captain, and it concerns the immediate future of the England team.

Quite simply, if our best

Derek Pringle, Cricket Correspondent, believes Michael Atherton's successor as skipper must be able to lead by example

Test cricket without being over- beat the best, you cannot carry exposed, especially early on. For must be speot keeping wicket and batting at No 3 or No 6, so that the likes of Ben Hollioake can be blooded at Nn 7.

If hierarchies mean anything, then Hussain, Atherton's vicecaptain for the last two winters, ought to get the job. A passionate man, Hussain has a shrewd and alert cricketing brain and is good at dealing with the press. However, as the last remain-

ing vestige of Raymond Illingworth's time as chairman of selectors - it was IIly who appointed him as Atherton's deputy - he has his critics, and many feel he is moody and selfish. Ironically, these were two of the "accusations" initially levelled at Graham Gooch, now part of the selectorial panel who will appoint the new captain, probably in May. But if Hussain has his faults, the pluses outweigh them, and like Hollioake, he captained ocss are such that he could do England A in Pakistan three winters ago, with distinction.

Hollioake's resumption as England's one-day captain after his success in Sharjah is bound to link him with the main job. An instinctive captain, he inspires his players more by word than deed. Like Knight, he has yet to prove he is good

players - not even captains.

Talk of Ramprakash is equally fatuous, at least at the moment. As captain of Middlesex, he is learning the ropes in the county game. In the Test arena he has only just found his feet let alone earned his epaulettes, and should not yet be burdened by anything more than scoring runs.

A lack of runs, according to the man himself, was one of the reasons that Atherton decided to resign. But while it is true that his career average has now dipped blow 40 - the benchmark of a good Test player - figures had little to do with him quitting a job that consumed him both publicly and privately.

Symmetry is often overlooked in sport, and Atherton's 52-match reign, as England captain - a total only exceeded by Allan Border and Clive Lloyd - was bookended by 3-1 losses to the West Indies. In between, there were also two defeats at the hands of Australia, both 3-1, as well as Pakistan and South Africa.

Worst of all, and what perhaps set him on the slippery slope as far as the media were concerned was the whinging and mediocre performances to Zimhabwe, where England lost three one-day matches, after young talent are to realise their eoough to command a Test drawing the Test series 0-0. potential, they must experience place. If England's goal is to The volume and viciousness of



some of the criticism that ensued, left a bitter taste, which after the hysteria that followed the "soil in the pocket" incident two years earlier, caused him to harden, both inside and out.

Highlights, although fewer, would have included a drawn series against the West Indies and South Africa at home, as well as wins against New Zealand and India. Under him England certainly became more difficult to beat, but only at home.

Overall, one in four Tests were woo under his leadership, a figure that revealed a lack of bowling depth and firepower. By his 50th Test in transigence is both his strength charge, some 50 players had been picked and it was a sure sign of England's weaknesses, that a clear majority of them were bowlers. It was similar sto-

ry this time, with only the 32- lace as against the situation, as year-old Fraser, who took 27 wickets in the series, performing with any distinction, on mostly bowler-friendly pitches.

To compound matters, the batsmen, Stewart and Ramprakash apart, peaked too late. Mind you, Atherton's insistence on picking John Crawley ahead of Ramprakash for the Trinidad Tests had all the hallmarks of an own goal, as did the continued selection of a hopelessly out of sorts Jack Russell.

Stubborn, occasionally to the point of inflexibility, he is popular with team-mates. His inand his weakness, although a chronically bad back is also taking its toll. The V-sign that slipped out in Barbados was not so much directed at Philo Wal-

England once again squandered a good batting performance by poor bowling. In a way, people should have rejoiced - it showed him to be not the emotional retard many like to suggest be is.

A resolute team man, he was talked out of resigning, oot once, but twice. On the first occasion, following last summer's Ashes defeat at Trent Bridge, he had just dotted the i's on his resignatioo statemeot when Lord MacLaurin rang on his car phone and talked him round.

It is settled now and although he wants to play on for England and Lancashire, the captaincy defined rather than refined him. Unless his form and the joy he felt after his epic innings in Johannesburg return, life in the

How England's captains compare

The tough guy approach was not enough for an impossible job

tain, Michael Atherton has not often seemed like a matador. In recent weeks he bas been pinned to his stumps by Curtly Ambrose bull-fight, would without doubt sure as hell gave it his best shot. sportsmanlike. have been on the hull.

feet and acute reflexes. The found a way to set a more vipress, too, was snorting and hrant and optimistic tone. The

IN HIS long and sometimes in one nimble movement Ather- It didn't work; he was only sweeping horns, dodging the risand carning himself sweet accolades as a guy who might have

In a few years' time, when he West Indies he has shown quick bly wish that he had somehow pawing at the dust, confident Atherton years won't really be that ooc more lunge could top- remembered for their wiseple him; and the oext couple of cracks. He chose a different weeks promised to be a rather route - the Allan Border route

clumsy reign as England's cap- ton has leapt away from the rarely able to seduce the best out of the very good players under ing clamour for his replacement his command. And he ended up with the worst of both worlds: for tough guys, when they lose, so often that one's money, in a failed to light up the skies, but simply look ungracious and un-

Even when he bowed out, he might well have taken a leaf out mediately after this latest so- wonders what he could have of Brian Lara's increasingly imnear-hut-so-far defeat in the dooe differently, he will proba- pressive book. Lara's fulsome tribute to his opposite number made Atherton's own resignation statement seem a bit dutiful and below the occasion. Atherton's supporters will be

quick to point out that a captain is only as good as the ammuni-

come to end the prolonged im-

balance, disperse from Antigua

today for the five one-day in-

ternationals with their dreams

so shattered that their longest-

serving captain felt compelled

to resign with his given assign-

In spite of the overall result

(and the margin in two Tests of

242 runs and an innings and 52)

some of England's senior play-

ers, and much of the attendant

media, have contended that

the result is not a true repre-

sentation of the difference be-

tweeo the teams, They take into

account the pitches, the tosses,

ment incomplete.

Robert Winder ponders the lessons to be learnt from England's departing captain

have such good players. But England's much-ahused bowlers could easily retort that in eight Test match innings, the West Indies scored 300 only twice. On four occasions

they were bowled out for less than 210. The world's best bats-

been able to wind up Walsh and captaincy in the field. And yes, Ambrose, the story goes, then it's a shame that the bowlers this last series would have been didn't do even better. But the off in single figures. Between very different. That might be series would have been Engtrue: everyooe would love to land's if they had batted with more purpose and adventure. who - Stewart, Hollioake, Hus

es in Antigua were much more just be one of the worst there is. land lose (which is often) and abdecisive than, any of the so- An England captain finds him- surdly ennobled on the rare occalled bad decisions that left our self in charge of players who play casions when they win. One batsmen glowering in the dressing-room. Lambert and Hooper should both have been sawn them they scored 212 runs.

It was a series of fine lines. sain or Ramprakash - will take winning to Barbados they were son of Atherton's reign might go outflanked by the weather, and deeper than that. It might rein Antigua they lost a cruel toss. main the fantasy of almost every man did oot get a century. on the wrong side of these fine country one day; but these days

too much, and pick up injuries

tional media who insist oo England twice came close to charge next summer. But the les- burdening him with their own sisted yesterday that his time as unrealistic hopes, or lamming him for the smallest perceived But they have made a habit over boy cricketer in England (a among sporting celebrities, a looked demon happy in the the years of always falling just dwindling band) to captain his cricket captain gets to pick his field; the decisioo to step down These figures also pay tribute to lines. In Trinidad they simply the dream is tinged by the fear prime time television. He finds face. Many England followers special tabloid nightmare. But - and tried to act the toogh guy. tion at his disposal; if Athers had. Atherton's sometimes maligned blew it, and the dropped catch- that as lovely jobs go, this might himself lampooned when Eng- would have found this poignant.

way or another, he finds himself almost faster than they gather being blamed for unexpected runs and wickets (the list of Eng- storm clouds in the Caribbean, land's crocked fast bowlers goes for brilliant bowling by the opon and on). He finds himself position, or for a schoolboy The immediate question is sharing his days with a unique run-out involving two of his Can it be fun? Atherton in-

captain had been "enjoyable"; hut not everyooe will be able to misdemeanour - almost alone believe him. Certainly he nose in super slow motion on hrought a rare smile to his

COULD **LEADER?**

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ARMY

SETRE BEST

the Grand Hotel in Brighton. Sussex claim a new multi-

AFTER two months of extra- in their assessments. All were vital elements but then they are ordinary, enthralling cricket, the bottom line is emphatic in any series. With a little more luck, it

enough. The West Indies, who seems, and it could have been started the series under the cloud of a 3-0 trouncing in Pak-5-0 to England - had the umistan and the direction of a piring been better in the first of new, unsettled captain, retained the two Tests in Port of Spain. the Wisden Trophy they have held since 1973 by the rehad Mike Atherton called heads instead of tails in Georgetown sounding margin of 3-1. and St John's and had it not England, genuinely optirained oo the last day in mistic that their time had finally Bridgetown.

To take that line is to ignore the primary reason for the outcome - the all-round superiority of the West Indies bowling and the inclination of England's batting to crumble before it wheo things got tough.

In Curtly Ambrose and Courtney Walsh, the West Indies possessed the most effective pair of fast bowlers in contemporary cricket, each vastly experienced, still physically strong and motivated as much by widespread doubt over their age as by England's preseries braggadocio.

the umpiring and the weather ball to them and know they of speed, was encouraged to

West Indians have reasons to be cheerful, but it is a mistake for England to be too gloomy. Tony Cozier assesses the series

Calypso cricket returns to the Caribbean

pitches, of which there was His line switched from run-savit, even when conditions favoured batting. Mike Athertoo had only the worthy Angus Fraser on whom he could rely for such incisiveness and discipline and the strain eventually took its physical toll on him.

Dean Headley is still a Test newcomer and, judged as such, was far from a failure. But Atherton might have expected more consistency from Andy Caddick, especially in the absence of Darren Gough.

Still, the West Indies were always expected to hold the pace aces. The surprise was that they were demonstrably stronger in spin as well. Carl Hooper, whose casual offbreaks were for so long a de-Brian Lara could throw the fensive stop-gap between waves

would exploit any help in the adopt a more positive method. plenty, and certainly not waste ing middle and leg stumps to outside off, in front of the batsman, and he worked his fingers more than he ever did. .

No more was he Geoff Boycott's "lollipop" bowler and his 15 wickets (at 23.66 each) were more than any West Indian spinner had taken in a series since Lance Gibbs 22 years

For two Tests - significantly those won by the West Indies by the widest margins - the new, young leg-spinner, Dinanath Ramnarine, skilfully supported Hooper and gave the West Indies' attack a balance it had lacked for so long.

England's hero at The Oval in August, proved their greatest in-dividual disappointment. The

rough from over the wicket on for the millennium. The rea turning pitch in the first Port spective selections made it plain of Spain Test, sent him the wrong message and he was nev- not the future. er the attacking bowler who routed the Australians only a few months earlier.

Indeed, Mark Ramprakash, a novice off-spinner, ofteo captain, Lara, the West Indies looked more threatening, making it more perplexing why the specialist of that type, Robert Croft, was not preferred. Apart from anything else, he would have shored up the brittle lower order batting. Individual batting gains were

limited for both teams, Ramprakash's long overdue maturity for England and the West Indies' equally belated discovery. by default, of a forthright opening pair in Philo Wallace and the venerable Clayton Lambert.

Yet England are no nearer to finding a permanent No 3 than Conversely, Phil Tufnell, the West Indies are a No 6 and both continue to have problems with their wicketkeepers. The psychological impact is likely to was summed up by Atherton's initial use of his left-arm spin as be far more far-reaching than

a defensive tactic, into the in the development of players that the priority was the present,

Mennedy c

After their undeniable decline over the last few years, culminating in the Pakistani disaster, and under their new could not afford another set-

For England, this was an opportunity lost to oullify a loog and dreadful record, not only against the West Indies, but against the major Test countries io geoeral and overseas in particular.

The scenes at the Antigua Recreation Ground on Tuesday evening were instructive.

For the West Indies, as the celebratory calypsos hlared out from Chiki's Disco and the crowds jumped for joy, it was a throwback to the glory days of the 1980s.

Lara's smile reflected the new, buoyant mood. England's

Sussex braced for backlash

SUSSEX were last night expecting a strong reaction from members following the revelation that the county are seeking to leave the County Ground in Hove, their home for 126 years.

The committee, which took over a year ago following a members' revolt, has decided the future of the oldest county club lies away from the historic location and a formal announcement was to be made at the annual general meeting at

purpose sports stadium is needed in the county. They are al- accommodate cars. We need ready working closely with homeless football club, currently have only a handful. Brighton and Hove Albion. and the Sussex chairman, Robin Mariar, who has visited four shortlisted sites, hopes to have a replacement for the county's tend to sponsorship. With just home since 1872 finalised by the

end of the year. The committee is united in its wish to see us in a new home." Marlar said. "Sport now needs backed the club, has been takstadia, not a homely little en over and the new owners are ground surrounded by flats. We pulling out of the deal.

need somewhere where we can thousands of spaces where we

"If 4,999 of our 5,000 members say 'no fear' then obviously we will listen to them." Mariar's problems also ex-

three weeks to go before the start of the season, a Sussexbased firm in the financial services industry, which was to have

Warne record as India dominate

india 290-4

most successful spin bowler in cutta, which Australia lost by an Test history yesterday when he snapped up two Indian wickets hauled Gibbs by dismissing in the third and final Test in Naviot Sidhu (74) and Dravid Bangalore.

The Australian leg-spinner reached his landmark as India scored 172 for 3 at tea on the mark of 309 held by West Indies off-spinner Lance Gibbs when he long-suffering bowlers. took the wicket of Rahul Dravid

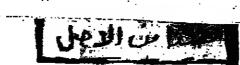
in his 67th Test. Gibbs had tak- sweep after winning the first two en 79 Tests to achieve his haul. Warne, who had figures of 0

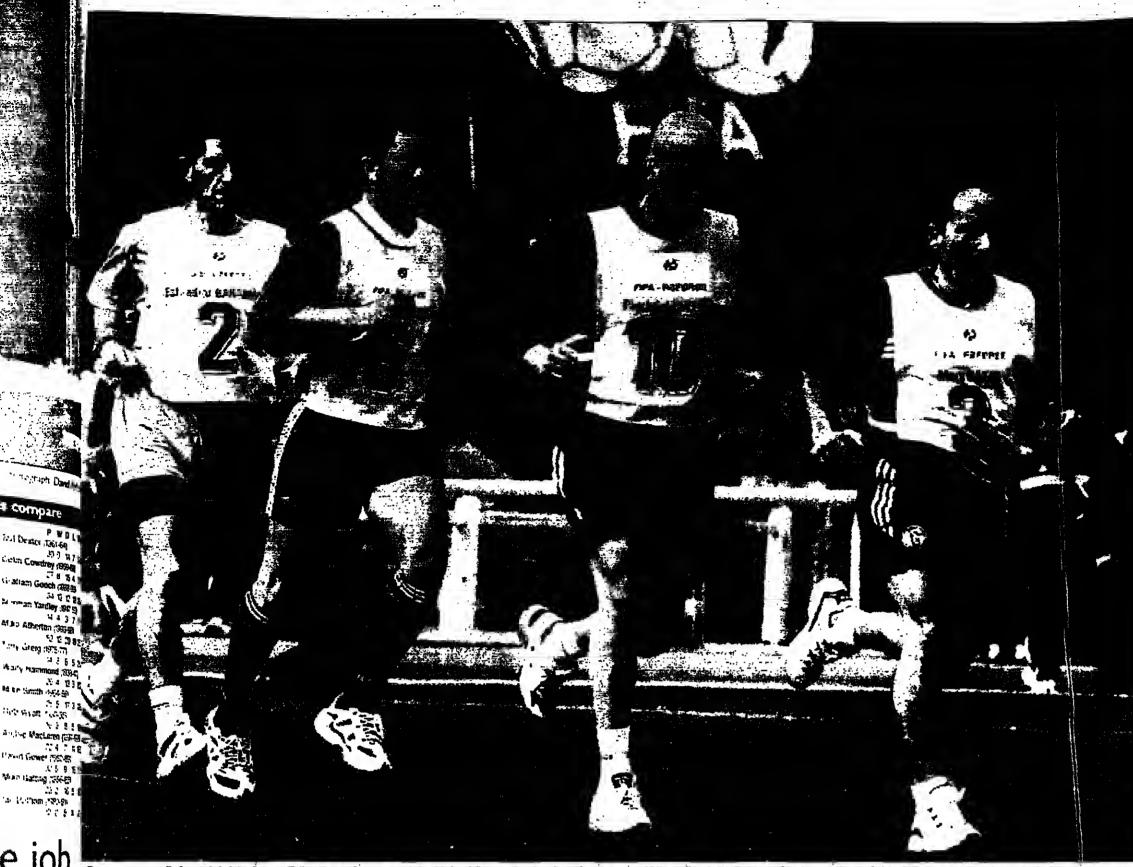
SHANE WARNE became the for 142 in the second Test in Calinnings and 219 runs, over-(23) in successive overs.

However, his achievement was eclipsed by the batting of Sachin Tendulkar, who hit an opening day. Warne beat the unbeaten 117 as India continued their assault on Australia's

The Indians, seeking a clean







Cup warm-up: (left to right) Referees Esfandiar Baharmast of the United States, Lucien Bouchardereau of Niger, Pierluigi Collina of Italy and France's Mark Batta are put through their paces at a stadi-Paris during a physical training session organised for referees who will be officiating at this summer's World Cup finals in France

Jones calls time on Crazy Gang ardsley

in the little was the

I KEEGAN has finally in that d to sign Peter Beardthe least too loan, for Fulham. managan, who signed Beardwhich teo he was Newcastle's and played with him imes' Park before that, suaded the 37-year-old England striker to join andoo cluh from Boltoo e end of the season. great news for us," said

L "I'm joining up again ibbean player I've spent many, ames with. We've taken he play-offs come pretand I said to Peter: 'Do ing I said to retail and it said to Wemide, and he's absolutely

ed as well. He's still as fit dle and a tremendous inon to those around him. with younger players will al boost for us."

gan, Fulham's director of il, has tried to sign the foriverpool and Everton previously this season, st out on more than ooe on. "It's a massive coup s club and shows that we , ' to get anybody for Ful-Keegan added.

Gang yesterday, as he became the last member to leave Wimhledon, joining Queen's Park Rangers as player-coach in a

£500.000 deal.

Jones agreed to sign a three and a half year contract, subject. to a medical, to work alongside Ray Harford, himself a former Wimhledoo manager, in revitalising the First Division side.

Jones admitted that it was "a huge wrench" to leave Wimhiedon, the club he gave up his job as a hod-carrier to join in 1986, with whom he won the FA

VINNIE JONES closed the break with Leeds, Sheffield coach and then to go into manchapter on the original Crazy United and Chelsea.

Jones was the founder member of the Crazy Gang spirit that marked Wimbledon apart and enabled them to become as suc- booked just three seconds into verbally, but was then tempted rivals on meagre resources. He said: "It's a bit sad.

That's it now, the old Crazy Gang won't be there any more. But there are certainly boys at Wimbledon now who can take it on a step further. They've got their own little Crazy Gang there themselves and they'll go on to good things.

"But you can't live in the Cup in 1988 and the team he re- past. You have to go forward livant resigned last week foljoined in 1992 after a three-year and I have to be looking to lowing protests from fans.

agement."

Jones, never the model processful as many of their bigger a game, said he was so excited about the move that his "heart was pounding out of his chest".

Tommy Burns, the former Celtic manager, is back in management with the struggling First Divisioo side Reading. Burns, who was youth de-

velopment officer at Newcastle. has taken over from the caretaker-manager Alan Pardew. The former manager Terry Bul-

when the then joint managers, fessional having been sent off 12 Jimmy Quinn and Mick Goodtimes in his career and once ing, left the club. He accepted away following a last-minute bid

from Newcastle. "I think I can save Reading from relegation, even though we have a tough run in our last seven games," Burns said. "I will definitely be strengthening the

squad before tomorrow's dead-"I went to Newcastle instead of Reading because they were a big club and I thought I

my own man and get into management," Arsenal's Remi Garde has

announced that he will retire at the end of the season. Garde has never really made an impact at Highbury since his move from Strasbourg in the summer of 1996 and said he was returning to live in Lyon, where he will work towards his coaching qual-

Wolves are setting themselves up for the FA Cup semifinal against Arsenal by signing the Australian international would find opportunities there. winger Robbie Slater from As time went by, I began to re- Southamptoo for £50,000.

is included in the package and

the former Arsenal player is pre-

pared to return to London after

The midfielder Michael

being left out of Royle's side.

Brown is also involved although

yesterday, after selling him to Crystal Palace for £1.8m earlier this season. Wolves' young striker Jasoo Roberts has joined Bristol City on-loan.

Newcastle have gone to their oeighbours Darlington to sign two young players in a deal which could eventually be worth £1.8m to the Third Division side. They have paid an initial fee of £500,000 for strikers Paul Robinson, 19. and James Coppinger, 17.

Sunderland have made the former Southampton and Fulham manager Ian Branfoot director of their football acade my.

ed his career at City before mov-

ing nn to Norwich and then

Stoke. He is from St Helens and

that might be a persuasive fac-

another old City favourite, Ian

Bishop, from West Ham Unit-

ed on a free transfer, but his

hopes of signing the England

Uoder-21 prospect John Curtis

nn loan from neighbours Unit-

ed have been dashed. Curtis is

needed to stay with the United

squad for the title bid because

Michael Clegg is injured.

Meanwhile, Royle has signed

tor for him.

Breen's dream start not enough

By Bill Pierce in Olomouc

Republic of Ireland

DESPITE the encouragement of an early goal from the Coventry City centre-back Gary Breen, an experimental Republic of Ireland side slipped to a narrow defeat in yesterday's friendly international against the Czech Republic.

The youngest team ever put out by the manager, Mick Mc-Carthy - average age below 23 - evectually ran out of steam against the Euro 96 runners-up.

Breen, one of the more experienced internationals in Mc-Carthy's team, rammed home his second goal in 13 appearances after some clever work by the Blackburn winger, Damien Duff, who was making his debut.

The fleet-footed teenager forced a corner with a forceful ruo down the left. Gary Kelly's flag-kick was flicked on by Everton's Gareth Farrelly and Breen lost his marker to shoot home after nine minutes.

The Czechs battled back literally - as they tried to impress their new coach, Josef Chovanec, in his first match in charge. Pavel Kuka was lucky to stay on the pitch wheo he clearpunched Ireland's captain, Keooy Cunningham, full in the face. The two players squared up but the referee, Attila Juhos of Slovakia, missed the incident.

A reprieved Kuka set up the former Manchester United winger Karel Poborsky for a shot which flew over the top. Then Poborsky fired a free-kick over the bar in the 33rd minute as the Czechs pressed for an equaliser.

McCarthy sent on the 17year-old Wolves striker Robbie Keane at half-time in place of Leeds' Alan Maybury to try to boost his attack. Keane thus became the youngest Irish in-ternational since Tottenham's Jimmy Holmes in 1961.

The impressive Charlton playmaker Mark Kinsella almost caught the Czech goal-Reading job nine months ago portunities and I wanted to be signed midfielder Neil Emblen keeper, Tomas Postulka, by surprise with a snap shot, but Ireland lost their lead within three mioutes of the restart.

Lubos Kozel ran 50 yards from his own half and, as the Irish defenders backed off, he slipped the ball through to the hard-running Kuka, who caught it just before the byline and cut It back for Vladimir Smicer to fire home from six yards.

Ireland were pushed further and further back as Poborsky orchestrated a string of neat, incisive moves. The gangling substitute for Kuka, Vratislav Lokvene, volleyed just wide of a post and then headed against a post.

The Czechs took the lead after 75 minutes. Kozel was again the architect of the goal, running at the Irish defence and finding Smicer. He could not control the pass but the ball felt invitingly for another substitute Edvard Lasota, to ram home the winner.

WHITCH.
CZECH REPUBLIC: Postulion (Sports Proguet;
Latal (Scholler 04). Kozel (Slovic Proguet.
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Rode (Sports Proguet.). Nevertry (Sports Proguet.
Cosel (Sports Proguet.). Nevertry (Sports Proguet.).
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80: Lenette (Steve Proguet.) for Cosel. 71. Votave (Sports Proguet.). Lottel. 85. Feder (Jablotne).
100: Jos Smitor, 89.
100: Sports (Sports Proguet.).

PROCESS OF STREET, AND: Given (Newcastle) Alleybury (Leods), Kenna (Blackburn), Cereins (Porty), Cumininghem (Warthston), Breer (Coverny), Kinselle (Castion), Farretty (Everny), Eventy (Freet), Councilly (Feynond), 6 Keep (Leods) Dutt (Blackburn), Substitutes: Keepe (Makes) (Manually Porty Councille), Porty Councille), Porty (Coverny), Councille), Porty (Coverny), Councille), Porty (Coverny), Coverns (Manually Porty (Coverns)), Coverns (Manually (Cover Local (Desputy, 1-1-), MicLoughilly (Portsmouth) in Fearely, 61; Kittisana (West Brottwich) for Co-nolly, 61; Delap (Derby) for Duff, 74, Kavarag (Stocke) for Caraloy, 85.

Kennedy close to £1.75m Wimbledon move

By Alan Nixon

MARK KENNEDY is poised to complete a £1.75m transfer to Wimbledon after the south London club tabled an offer to. Liverpool larger than those of Nottingham Forest aod Queen's Park Rangers.

The Republic of Ireland midfielder is heading for London for talks and will join the Dons before the transfer deadline if he agrees terms. Wim-

hledon have been chasing move to Goodison. The Scottish

Kennedy for a year and finally striker was due to sign for The Blades have already lined The City striker Paul Dickov Kennedy for a year and finally raised the money to meet

Liverpool's valuation. Kennedy recently had a successful loan spell at QPR, who wanted to buy him, and has oo future at Liverpool although he was recalled from his loan to play for the club.

John Spencer's future at. Everton was plunged into doubt last night when he failed to agree terms on a permanent

£1.4m from QPR, but salary negotiations broke down. Spencer will stay on loan but could he recalled by Rangers.

Meanwhile, Everton's bid for Greek star Vassilis Borbokis is also up in the air as Sheffield United did a dramtic U-turn. News of Howard Kendall's £1.2m move has sparked anger at the FA Cup semi-finalists and

Football results

International friendly

caused a split on the board. Now Kendall is fearing he may miss out on Borbokis as

2. INTERNATIONAL PRIEMDEY: Septiand 4 Michigan 41. Claims 47. Whight 64. Cameron 55 Malas 0 fet Broadwood stadium, Cumbernatid)

55 SCOTTISH LEAGUE First Division: Fel-(Kath 48 Partick 1 (McGovern og 56). Tivd pr. Roes County 0 Alice 2 (Remsey 10, Irvine

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62) Famborough 0.

RYTIAMN LEASULE Promise Division: Besingstoke 3 Hichin C, Borsham Wood 2 Hentow Bolough 2: Carshatton Athetic 0 Chesham 1: St. Abans 4.

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up a replacement in Bradford's Chris Wilder.

Manchester City have made a bid to bring Mike Sheron back from QPR in a £2m deal made up of players plus cash. Sheron, who joined Rangers for £2m last summer, has been told by the manager, Ray Harford, that he expects the deal to he completed. Now Sheron will have to agree terms with City, while the Manchester City manager, Joe

POMTRIS LEAGUE Pression D © Blackburn Q. Flest Divisions (Bromwich 1; Noth County 1 Lei 1 Sunderland 1 (of Ballord Use).

he starts a two-game ban at the weekeod which makes him less

attractive to Rangers. City will pay some cash on top of the two players to get Sheron, who is poised to talk to them today in a bid to beat the Royle, also needs the players he transfer deadline. Sheron start-

Sweeper lure

lose the ball in that position it can be costly."

wood 0; Worksop 3 Eastwood Rown 1, Challenge Cap sexual-final finat larg: Byth 1 Cohreborough Thirty 2, Sexonal larg: Control 3 Abritochem 2 Jungs 3-4). President's Cup sexual-fixed second larg: Subsoly 1 Author 10th 1 Jungs 3-2). DR MARTEINS LEAGURE Premier Devisions: Bromagove Rouses 3 Author 10; Combridge City 2 Rongis Lynn 0; Heatings 3 Workseys 1: Bouth-ers Divisions: Pleast 1 Sexual-fixed Divisions Divisions: Divisions: Pleast 1 Sexual-fixed port (dwt) 1: Willings 4 Carpocating 2 Leonaus Cup for Redknapp TRANSFER DEADLINE... **IAMIE REDKNAPP** is boping ...SIGNINGS LATEST! for another crack in the sweeper's role, despite his testing bap-NEW FASTER CALL 0930+ A tism for England in the Under-21 NORTH WEST COUNTIES LEAGUE FIRST DI-ARSENAL ASTON VILLA BARNSLEY BIRMINGHAM international against Switzerland in Aarau oo Tuesday night. MILLWALL The Liverpool midfielder, deployed in the position for the 168 813 168 840 JEWSON WESSEX LEAGUE: Newbury 2 Porte-Mouth FIN O. first tima in his career as an experiment by Glenn Hoddle. BRENTFORD BRISTOL CITY BURNLEY CARLISLE the England coach, was only a LINLSPORTUNITED COUNTIES LEAGUE PR qualified success as the Swiss mier Dirielos: Long Buckby 1 Northempton Spencer S; Mirriese Bieckstons 1 Hobesch 1; St Media 0 Spelding 2; Statfold 1 Deuborough 3; Wallingtorough 2 Boston 2 Langua Cup semi-tines: Woodon 3 Ford Sports 3. SHEFF WED earned a comfortable 2-0 win. Redknapp said: "There's UNIJET SUSSEX COUNTY LEAGUE First Di-vision: Litishermon, 1 Saltiden 1; Peacehaven & Telecombe 3 Shorehern 1. been a lot of pressure on me to COVENTRY DERBY COUNTY EVERTON have a go in the role and do well. unscombe 3 Shorthern 1. NOTT INSURANCE MORTHERN LEAGUE to Division: Morpetin 0 South Shields C; The 71 Billingham Synthonia 4. ICLUE OF WALLES: Bangor 3 Porthrestog 3; y 2 Rhahadar 0; Coemes 3 Hawarischeeld for Cubbs 74 Quarter 3 Central than 0; New-11 Rhyl 1; This Larramothald 0 Corretite Quey If the result had been better, it would have reflected hetter on me. But it was my first time and W.B.A. WEST HAM WIMBLEDON WOLVES 168 843 I'd really like to have another 168 812 168 826 go at it. You must concentrate on what you're doing, and if you MAN CITY

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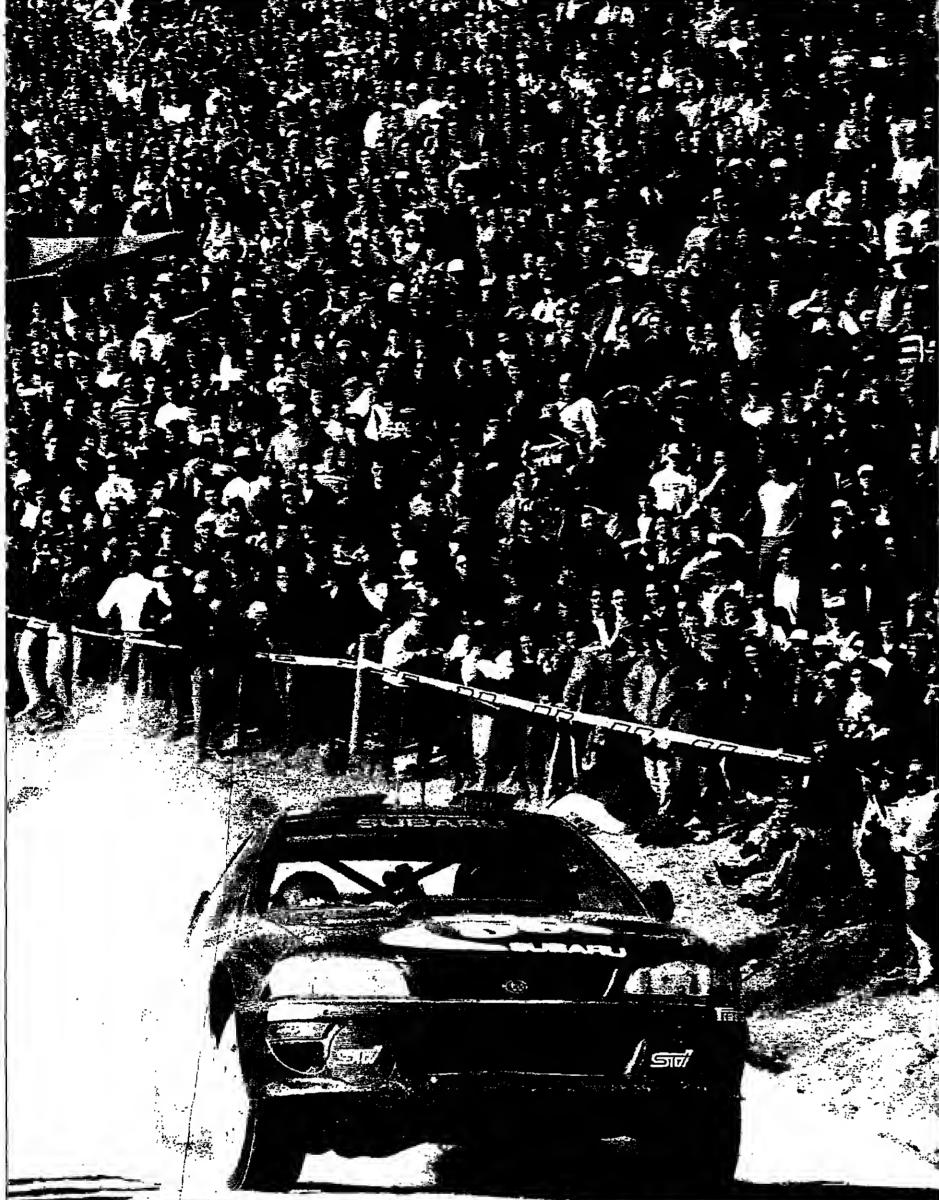
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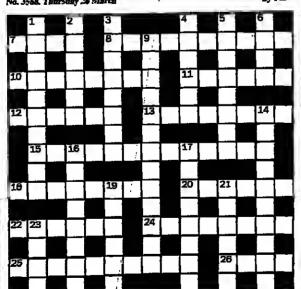
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Sierra Nevada Spring-like conditions



Leading man: Britain's Colin McRae races past a hilltop crowd near Fafe yesterday, during the 24th stage of the Portuguese Rally which he went on to win

THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD



ACROSS Foodstuff's a source of

iron? Thanks (4) See one take on first instrument of torture (4, 6) 10 Distraught, Paul came to

make an apology (3, 5) 11 Queen beginning to rule. say, in Australia (6) 12 Collection of antiquities to 26

make you think and sound hesitant (6)
13 Oho! Crop's lying around 1

farmer's first meadow (8) 15 After tucking into beer, writing a statement of faith (8, 5)

18 Confirmed bachelor's not quite intent pronounce20 Left has irritation with Government's first mishap

Understand trick (4, 2) A pause during speciallyarranged travel (8) Outspoken and favouring mostly the Conservatives'

Great many killed (4)

DOWN Give more freedom to rendering of Elgar etude

Incpt, getting left on the other side of the Chunnel

19 I almost blush about new I'd turned up scheme to secure graduate ambas-23 Doctor brought in a secsador material? (8)

Sycophantic troops follow-

ing Sergeant Major (6) Call to have team close to

bank? (4) Working with lace, say, having little financial back-

Married couple, say, going

musical entertainment (8)

Think it should be found

in county's spectators (8)

Doctor ruins hospital - Ints

of patients all at once? (6)

over the Spanish part of

16 Variety of top-rate English

Jack Sprat's favourite

the action (8)

ing (2.1.10)

church (4, 6)

bypass (6)

ond man (4)

Raily yesterday.

In a formidable display of aggressive driving, the 29-year-old preza into the lead on Monday's third stage and never relinquished command of the race to claim his 14th career win.

However, the driver who made McRae sweat was the

First win for McRae

Rallying

IN THE end it came down to just over two seconds, but it was enough for Britain's Colin McRae to record his first victory of the season in the Portuguese

Scot powered his Subaru Im-

charge for victory in his Toyota than Mitsubishi, in the manu-Corolla failed by just 2.1sec. Sainz, who started the final

day 27 seconds off the lead, nearly overtook McRae with the fastest times in five of the last leg's eight stages.

McRae, who took third place in Monte Carlo but failed to finish in the following two events of the season, was determined to win in Portugal to avoid slipping further back in 53. Isec behind. the overall drivers' standings. He is now fourth in the world

championship with 14 points. Sainz has moved clear at top with 22 points and has lifted Spaniard Carlos Sainz, whose late Toyota to 26 points, one more

facturers' championship.

Finland's Juha Kankkunen the joint championship leader with Sainz before Portugal, finished out of the points in seventh place to remain on 16 points. Belgium's Freddy Loix finished third, 45.8 seconds off the pace, in his Toyota Corolla, while Britain's Richard Burns in a Mitsubishi Carisma finished fourth,

Finland's Tomi Makinen, the reigning world champion and last year's winner in Portugal, spun off the road and into

Positions, Digest, page 28

Atherton quit over batting

Cricket

MIKE ATHERTON's chronic lack of batting form was the main reason behind his decision to resign as England captain.

The England coach, David Lloyd, yesterday revealed why Atherton quit after losing the final Test, and with it the series 3-1. "Over a fairly lengthy period now he has been short of runs, and he'd taken enough," he said.

Albans Read Walford

right and proper for Atherton Thorpe were together we were to be consulted on his successor. in control. But then there was Alec Stewart is the favourite, one moment of madness with the ahead of Nasser Hussain, Adam run-out and suddenly one wick-Hollioake and Mark Ram- et brought seven. As for Mike, prakash. "I expect I will also be" when he was in charge and we asked for an opinion, and if I am I will give it," added Lloyd.

Lloyd was too upset on Tuesday night to speak about either the Test defeat or Atherton's res- to their name and that has got ignation. He said yesterday: to be a big factor in his record." There were so many different:

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Lloyd believes it would be .. emotions. When Hussain and were bowling sides out he was as good a captain as anyone. But he never had bowlers at either end

with more than 300 Test wickets Derek Pringle, page 30

Chattlebed by Newspaper Publishing PLC, I Canada Square, Casary Wharf, London S14 5DL, and printed at Mittor Colour Print, St.

Robson ready for Gazza 'grief'

THE Middlesbrough manager, Bryan Robson, joked yesterday that he is expecting "some grief" from his new £3.45m signing Paul Gascoigne.

But he added that although Gascoigne would be the centre of media attention he would still be worth every penny of his transfer fee. "There will be certain people looking for knocking stories. But these incidents are few and far between these days," Robson said. "I am sure Gazza will give me a little bit of grief from time to time but it will be worth it.

"It is the media who expect trouble, not me. I believe Gascoigne: will respect me as a manager and I will respect him as a player."

And Robson believes that Gascoigne has now matured and will be looking to the midfielder to inspire his younger players. Robson said: "When a player reaches the age of 30, he becomes aware of the fact that he is in the second part of his career. He wants to work hard to make sure that he plays on as long as possible. Gazza loves his football and our fans will love him.

"Paul likes a few pints now and again, but he is one of the hardest trainers I have ever worked with. The other players will see how hard he works and

it will be a big influence.". Gascoigne will be named in Middlesbrough's squad for the Coca-Cola Cup final against Chelsea at Wembley on Sunday if he passes his medical. If the medical tests are positive, Boro plan to unveil Gascoigne at a

Supporters gathered outside Middlesbrough's training ground in the picturesque vilage of Hurworth to catch a glimpse of Britain's most famous footballer - but, like the press, they were banned from watching him train and banned

from talking to him. They were also quite comfortably outnumbered by the crows in the wood outside the main entrance.

Gazzamania? Well, not quite. One flat-capped pensioner did turn up with his buildog on a lead, swearing be had changed its name to Gazza after hearing the news that Gascoigne had joined Mid-

dlesbrough from Rangers. While Gazza may have lost some of his pace on the pitch these days, he showed a pretty fair turn of speed as be arrived for his first training session with his new team-mates. At 10.15 his

through the main entrance of the training ground, with Gascoigne himself at the wheel and his minder, Jimmy "Five Bellies" Gardiner, sprawled across the passenger seat. There was neither a wave, nor a hint of smile. Maybe at 30 this is a new mature Gazza after ail.

The mood among the fans. was upbeat. The hope for them is that he contributes as much to the team as Juminho - the lit tle Brazilian whose brillent performances graced the Riverside Stadium last season.

Among today's sprinkling, of fans was the Middlesbrough Supporters' Association secretary, Simon Bolton, though it should be said he was ferried the 15 miles from Middlesbrough to Hurworth in a taxi supplied by Sky television, after they became; desperate for someone to talk to. Bolton, the man who looks uncannily like "Five Bellies". had been woken up this morning by Rangers fans, sad at the

loss of Gascoigne. "I can understand them being a bit upset. Gazza is a hero: to them," Bolton said, "He is one of the best-known nare, in football. It was a big surprise : when they heard he'd joined, but as long as he puts in 100 per : cent like Juninho, be will have; the fans' respect. But they won't put up with anyone freeloading

Gascoigne could make an immediate return to Ibrox at the end of next month in a testimonial for the veteran Rangers

midfielder lan Durrant. At the moment the biggest selling point of the testing vial. which will be against Sherfield. Wednesday on 28 April, is the return of the former Celtic for-

gow. However, Gascoigne yesterday indicated he might offer to turn out in the match, as he; regrets having left Rangers. without having had the chance to bid farewell to his colleagues

and the club's fans. He told Virgin Radio: "Leaving Rangers was one of the saddest days in my career, but now I'm looking forward to my new challenge. I have the chance to work with Brance Robson, who was my idol war mad be used to play.

Yet I'm sad to be leavi-Rangers especially, as I never how the chance to say goodbye to the guys. But hopefully I can, as Ian. Durrant has a testimonial coming up and I would like to say

goodbye to the fans properly." The main stumbling block could be Middlesbrough's promotion ambitions, with the match coming the week before Range-Rover sent 30 or so pho-their final League game of the tographers scattering as it roared season against Oxford.

Bohinen completes £1.45m Derby move

DERBY COUNTY have com-£1.45m. The Norwegian international midfielder signed a three-year deal after meeting the Rams manager, Jim Smith, at Pride Park.

Bohinen failed to win a regular place at Blackburn, but Smith believes he will be ideally suited to Derby's style of play.

"We've still got nearly a quarter of our season to go, and Lars could play a substantial part in us getting into Europe," Smith said. "Lars is a quality player who scores goals and he will be given a free role in a very offensive midfield position: I'm looking

forward to working with him." Bohinen's short-term aim is World Cup squad, but he insisted: "I haven't just come way team, but I'm excited about

coming to Derby County."

ing a move back to the Netherpleted the signing of Lars Bo- lands to take charge of PSV hinen from Blackburn for Eindhoven for the second time in his career. PSV, where Robson was manager from 1990 Les 1992, guiding them to the leagur. title twice, have offered Robsor. a deal reported to be worth up7 to £15,000 a week.

The Dutch club are looking to fill the coaching vacancy left by the departure of Dick Advocaat, who is to take charge at Rangers next season.

A PSV spokesman confirmed that an offer had been made to Robson, who is currently director of football at Barcelona, following talks with the Dutch cinb's chairman, Harry van Raaij, in Spain.

However, the Dutch media to earn a place in Norway's believe Robson may be seen as a temporary solution and therefore only offered a one-year here for that. Of course, I'll do contract as the man PSV ared all I can to get back in the Nor- said to really want - the ormer player and current Bruges coach Eric Gerets - will not be Bobby Robson, the former released from his existing con-England manager, is consider- tract until 1999

